

Address of welcome from Assam Residents.

to postpone, at any rate for the present, what greatly desire to do, namely, to see the important with which you are connected. I should, however, you to understand that, if that is so, I am by no mindful of your circumstances, and of the important Empire of the prosperity of the great industries such of tea, with which your Province is connected, as you have called my attention in your address.

I can well understand, Gentlemen, your questions relating to the supply of labour, and facilities for transport by rail and otherwise, overlooked. You will easily understand that, at the moment, it is impossible for me, or for any one connected with the Government of India, to make any statement, or to say anything which could be construed into a promise involving financial responsibilities. But, at the same time, I hope you will understand that these subjects will not fail, so far as I am concerned, to be considered, when they come up, with the most earnest attention, and a sincere desire to promote the prosperity of Assam.

Gentlemen, you have justly called attention in your address to the differences which must arise between the Provinces of the Empire. You point out that, though Assam is the smallest of the eight local Administrations under the Imperial Government of India, there are other considerations for not overlooking its claims. That doubtless also applies to its representation on the Legislative Council to which you have called attention. You will easily understand that this is a matter with regard to which a selection must be made from time to time, and all that I can say at the present moment is that I will note the remarks made in your address.

I will only, in conclusion, again thank you for the kind words which you have spoken, and for the good-wishes which you have expressed with regard to my health. This, I think, is a consideration which is of great importance to me,

from the Central National Mahomedan Association.

that I may duly discharge the duties of the onerous which I have undertaken.

ADDRESS FROM THE CENTRAL NATIONAL MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION.

tation of the Central National Mahomedan Association the Viceroy on Tuesday afternoon, the 20th February, him with an address of welcome. The Deputation was numbering about 100, and representing many branch associations parts of India. The address, which was read by Shah, referred *inter alia* to the fall in exchange, and the effects resulting from it to the masses of the poor, to the decrease in proportion of Mahomedans employed by the State, particularly in Bengal, notwithstanding the assurances of Government and the spread of English education. The existing representation of Mahomedans in the Legislative Councils was described as "totally inadequate for the purpose of safeguarding their legitimate rights and privileges."

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I am very glad to have this opportunity of meeting with the Members of the Central National Mahomedan Association. I cannot profess that I am perfectly informed as to the nature of your constitution, but I judge from the number of branches enumerated in your address that you have established connections, and desire to influence opinion, in all parts of India. May I say to you, as one who knows something of this kind of work, that your experience will be very different indeed from mine, if you do not encounter difficulties, and perhaps meet with disappointments. No task, in my opinion, is more difficult, and no task is more responsible, than that of speaking in the name of many persons, or of numerous bodies of persons, many of whom one cannot possibly have seen, or have had opportunities of conference with. Such a task calls for qualities of the highest order—for the quality of discretion, for the quality of moderation, above all, for the quality of self-repression,—if you desire to focus the sustained and deliberate

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judgment of the community which you wish to represent, and to impress that fact upon those who hear you.

Excuse me, Gentlemen, for these recollections, which are suggested to me by experiences of my own in former days, but which are connected with the first observation, which I assure you suggested itself to me on hearing your address, that there was not anything in it which, for my part, I could object to. You have directed my attention to various subjects which are of interest to the community you represent. I am entitled to assume that, exercising the responsibility of which I have spoken, you have embodied the deliberate opinion of your Association and its branches, and, that being so, I have only to thank you for bringing these subjects under my notice. Gentlemen, it is the duty,—I should say the first duty,—of the Representative of a Government such as this, to receive, and to gratefully receive, the well-matured and moderate statements of opinion which may come to him on the subject of the—well, I would rather not call them grievances, but of the facts and circumstances which bear hardly on any class or section of the people whose affairs it is called upon to administer. But, Gentlemen, I think you have done something more than this. In the address which has been read you have recognized the fact that the path of the Government of India is not altogether free from difficulties which will tax to the uttermost our energies to overcome them. In coming to me with this frank acknowledgment you disarm any criticism, if I had desired to offer it. You express the hope that my “solicitude for the welfare of our co-religionists will strengthen our hands in ameliorating their condition.” I can, under the circumstances, have no hesitation in assuring you of my fullest sympathy, when you, on your part, recognize so completely the limitations which stern facts impose upon my powers, and let me say that they are limitations which will be best overcome by mutual confidence and co-operation.

Gentlemen, I wish simply to return to you my very best

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thanks for the good wishes which you have expressed regarding myself personally. I can assure you that no effort of mine will be wanting to justify them by, in the first place, endeavouring to appreciate the wants of the people, and to deal with them in that just and sympathetic spirit which, as you have said, I am, by my ancestry, bound to follow.

THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

23rd Feb. 1894. [The ninth Annual Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin Fund was held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, at 4-30 P.M. on Friday, the 23rd February, the Viceroy presiding. His Excellency was accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, and their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wenlock, and the general attendance was large and representative. The Hon'ble Lieut.-General Brackenbury presented the Report of the Association for the past year and spoke at some length. Mr. Monomohun Ghose moved the adoption of the Report, and Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein seconded the motion. Lord Wenlock then addressed the meeting as to the progress of the work in Madras, when the motion was put and carried unanimously. Sir Charles Elliott next proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, coupling with it a vote of thanks to Lady Elgin for assuming the Presidentship of the Association. His Honour took the opportunity of reviewing the progress of the work in Bengal during the year. The resolution was seconded by Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna.

His Excellency, who on rising was received with applause, then addressed the assembly as follows:—]

Your Excellencies, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I feel that, on this occasion, I occupy a somewhat singular position. It has been my lot not unfrequently to preside at meetings such as this, and I have been thanked for presiding, but, on this occasion, I feel that the thanks which have been expressed by Sir Charles Elliott, and Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, are not due for any services which have been performed by me. The duties of the Chairman of a meeting are sometimes arduous; but this meeting has been as decorous as, I may say, a meeting of the Legislative

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Council, and, indeed, I find that last year my distinguished predecessor suggested that the precedent of the Legislative Council might be followed, and that interpellations might be introduced, but that difficulty has not been added to the duties of the Chair. Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to look beyond my own services for the reason of your approbation, and I find it in this—that it is expressed not to me only, but also to her in whose name, according to the custom of this meeting, I am privileged to speak. Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to thank you for the encouragement which you have given to Lady Elgin by this appreciation of her acceptance of the post of Lady President. (*Applause.*) I am commissioned by her to say that, if she felt any diffidence in assuming that position, it was from the thought that she was following, not only the distinguished Foundress of the Association, but also that noble lady to whose services General Brackenbury has so feelingly alluded, and whose gracious presence at these meetings must, I am sure, be present to the minds and hearts of many here this afternoon. (*Applause.*) But, Ladies and Gentlemen, in a business of this kind there is no standing still. I am inclined to think that the greater the success which attends the initiation of a great idea, the greater the responsibility which falls upon those who follow, and upon whom lies the duty of working it out in its administrative details; and, therefore, I think you will be inclined to admit that Lady Elgin may be pardoned for thinking that, in undertaking this work, she has undertaken no slight task in following Lady Dufferin and Lady Lansdowne. But may I say for myself—if I may dissociate myself for a moment from Lady Elgin—that I have very little fear in this matter. The husband is extraordinarily fortunate who has not had, at some period or another, occasion to know something of the views of his wife on medical topics (*laughter*), and I can assure you that the sympathies of Lady Elgin in this matter extend very far beyond the administration of domestic

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medicine, and that, in the work of this Association, I am convinced she will find employment which is both congenial and engrossing to her. (*Applause.*) Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you in her name for the encouragement which you have given to her, and I venture to hope that, with the assistance of the able members of the Central Committee, she will be in a position to carry on, to your satisfaction, the work of this Association. (*Applause.*)

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you to understand that neither Lady Elgin nor myself have looked on this matter simply and solely as a matter of business. If I have alluded to that side of the question first, it is only that you should understand that we look upon it as no slight thing—not as a mere plaything, but as one that will have to be followed diligently, and I hope that you will also understand—and in this I join emphatically—that we regard it as a labour of love which we welcome, and of which we entirely appreciate the value. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall not attempt to-day to say anything of the aim and object of this Association, which have often been expressed by far more eloquent lips than mine in this hall. All that I wish to do at present is to describe what I understand to be its underlying principle, and, if I were to express that in a somewhat homely phrase, I should be inclined to say that it was an attempt to see with other people's eyes. What was it that we had to meet? We had to meet a vast mass of human pain and suffering, unnecessary and unrelieved; and, on the other hand, we had a great amount of scientific knowledge, ready, energetic, and able, and, if I may be allowed to say so, full of sympathy; and the question was how to bring the science of the West to cope with the pain and suffering of the East. Now, I should say that in one way it would have been impossible. If science had insisted on saying we must only be called in on our own terms, I venture to think that the progress would have been very slow, and very small, but science did

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not wish to do anything of the kind. Science turned to charity, not charity in any limited sense of almsgiving, but charity in the sense of one of the widest and highest of virtues, and the position taken was this—that it was admitted that there were deep-seated feelings—feelings with all the sanction of long-established custom, of sentiment, and of religion—and that there was no wish or desire to set these aside, but to ensure to them the same respect and observance which we ourselves should claim for our most cherished ideas. (*Applause.*) That, in my view, was the principle underlying the institution of this Fund, and the success of the Fund, I think, justifies the wisdom of the principle. I venture to think that, in this Association at any rate, we all meet here as subjects of one Empire, members of one human family, that there is no division between us, that we meet on a common platform, and that we welcome the assistance so freely offered to our Committees and otherwise by English ladies and gentlemen, and at the same time the support given by the Chiefs and people of India, not only by the generosity so often testified to in this hall, and again to-day, but also by the eloquence which we have heard from this platform. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is not my intention to enter into details. I should prefer to refer you to this small volume (*laughter*) of the Report, and to assure you that any one who will master its details will be able to gain every information in regard to the progress of the Fund. I think it will satisfy you that the operations of the Fund are not confined to any one part of India, and I am sure that the happy accident—if I may say so—of the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Calcutta has been welcomed by this Association, and we have all been pleased to hear from him the interesting account which he has given of the state of affairs in Madras. (*Applause.*) All that I will say, therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that, as General Brackenbury has put it, we may, at this moment, very fitly look back, not only to the past year, but to the

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record of five years, and when we find that in those five years the figures are such as are in this Report, I think it furnishes very satisfactory evidence of the progress of the Fund. The numbers of patients have increased, I find, from 100,000 to 600,000, or at the rate of 100,000 each year, and the in-patients from about 2,500 to 12,500, or a somewhat similar proportion. Now I wish to emphasise what was said by General Brackenbury that increasing usefulness must mean increasing necessities, and, therefore, as I am sure we all of us desire that there should be no check imposed upon the growing appreciation throughout India of the advantages derived from this Association, we must be prepared to take what steps we can to get possession of the funds which are necessary to meet the claims which may come upon us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it was a great satisfaction to me to know in this connection that we have not only to look upon the past generosity to which I have already referred, but upon princely acts of liberality such as those which have been announced to you by Sir Charles Elliott. (*Applause.*) Just as I was coming to this meeting the Honorary Secretary of the Fund put into my hands a telegram announcing the intention of the Maharaja of Durbhanga, to which Sir Charles Elliott referred, and I venture to think that it will be your wish that the Honorary Secretary, in acknowledging that telegram, should express to the Maharaja the warmest thanks of this Association in public meeting assembled. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, there are only two other points upon which I should like to say a few words. In the first place, it has been very interesting to me to notice the number of students who are now in the Colleges and Schools of India, and to hear the remarks which General Brackenbury has made as to the importance of their education in relation to this work. I am afraid that hitherto I have not been able to inform myself exactly as to the details of the manner in which your Association interests itself in the education of these

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students, but I hope, as time goes on, to be in a position so to inform myself. At any rate, I wish to say that is a branch of the work which I hope I may be allowed to take an interest in, and, in the meantime, perhaps I may ask leave to be permitted to continue the system, which I believe was that of my predecessors, and to offer to these students certain medals as prizes in connection with this Fund. (*Applause.*) The other point to which I desire to allude is this. It is one on which Lady Elgin wishes me especially to say a word. I have said something of the energy shown by the Committees; I have said something of the liberality of those whose means permit them to contribute to our funds. I think we should do wrong if we forgot all mention of the ladies whose work lies in the actual hospitals and among the patients, and upon whom the realization of our wishes so much depends. (*Applause.*) You must remember, Ladies and Gentlemen, that these ladies have expended much time and energy in acquiring knowledge, and that after they have, by study, acquired that knowledge, they have placed it at the service of the women of India. I cannot but think that occasions must arise when they find themselves very much alone, and perhaps cut off and separated from the pleasures and relaxations of life which others look forward to, and it may be that, on those occasions, they may be liable to that depression which difficulty and responsibility are apt to cause, particularly in isolated circumstances. Lady Elgin wishes me especially to assure those ladies of her sympathy in this—what I may perhaps call—the more personal side of their great task.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think I have trespassed long enough upon your attention. I hope I have said sufficient to show that nothing is needed in order to stir up the interest which either Lady Elgin or myself feel in the work of this Association. There is just one word I should like to say in conclusion. General Brackenbury stated that, at the outset of this undertaking, it was announced that it was

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instituted with the special approval of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. It has been a great satisfaction and encouragement to Lady Elgin, in undertaking the work of the Lady President, to know from Her Majesty herself that she does so with her Sovereign's approval. Her Majesty was pleased to express to Lady Elgin her continued interest in this Fund (*applause*), and she charged her to remember that anything which affected the welfare of the women of India was peculiarly interesting to herself. (*Applause.*) I venture to think that no report which Lady Elgin can send home will be more interesting to Her Majesty than that of the continued success of this Fund, and the consequent relief which has been brought to many thousands of Her Majesty's subjects. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

27th Feb 1894.

[On Tuesday afternoon, the 27th February, a deputation of the Indian Association, a public body having its head-quarters at Calcutta, and branch and affiliated associations in different parts of the country, waited upon the Viceroy with an address of welcome. The address, which was read by Babu Surendro Nath Banerji, referred to a variety of questions, such as the reform of the Legislative Councils, the employment of natives in high offices under Government, the impolicy of combining Judicial and Executive functions in one and the same officer, the condition of the coolies in Assam, the anti-kine killing disturbances, and the finances.

His Excellency replied in the following terms:—]

Gentlemen,—I have to express my very sincere thanks to the Indian Association, whom you represent here to-day, for the welcome which you have given me in the address which has just been read, and also for the personal references—personal not only to myself—which compel me again to recognise that the memory of the people of India is not a short one, and that services rendered to them may be expected to bear fruit in succeeding generations.

Gentlemen, I wish that it was as easy for me to reply to

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the rest of your address as it has been to the portions with which I have now dealt, but you yourselves are kind enough to point out the course which you would desire me to pursue. You are good enough to remark that, on an occasion like this, you would not solicit an expression of my opinion on the many questions of importance which are mentioned in your address, and I am old enough in my office to know that they raise questions of very great importance to this country. All that I need say, therefore, with regard to those questions is this, that your expressions of opinion are not the less welcome to me that they come early in the period of my administration. I ventured to say to a Deputation which waited upon me from another Association some days ago, a few words to indicate my sense of the difficulty and responsibility which attach to the work of any Association which, like yours, endeavours to reflect the opinion of many parts of this great country. I do not wish to weary you with repetitions, but my words are recalled to my mind by an observation which I find in your address in which you say that you feel it your duty as a public body which faithfully seeks to represent the views of their educated countrymen to their rulers to submit these questions to my consideration. I wish, therefore, to reiterate that, far from objecting to the expression of opinions of this kind, I welcome them most sincerely, and regard them as a friendly act to any one who is called upon to administer a great country. Outspoken opinion is, to my mind, the greatest assistance that any one in my position can have, and I, for my part, would put no limit to the measure of outspoken opinion, except this—that it should be free from any appearance of invective, which is foreign to the friendly relations which must subsist between educated men.

Gentlemen, I should like just to add a word to this branch of the subject. As I have said, I accept, and accept gratefully, the expression of opinion which you have favoured me with. I have promised it my careful consideration. Does it

Address from the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association.

not follow from this that if the time should come—as it may come—when I, or the Government to which I belong, shall have occasion to speak, or to act, on any of these questions, I shall be entitled to look with confidence to receiving at your hands the same careful and considerate attention as I, on my part, promise to your representations to-day? Gentlemen, I cannot but feel that in no country probably is it more necessary than in this that there should be no suspicion of underlying motive, and if you and I,—you and the Government of India,—can truly recognise that we are, each of us, determined to do our duty without fear, without favour, and without selfishness, I think that we may, in our respective spheres, contribute something to the peace, prosperity, and contentment of the great Empire to which we belong.

Gentlemen, I have only, in conclusion, to thank you for the manner in which you acknowledge that the duties which are before me are of the most arduous nature, and for the good-wishes which you express for my performance of them. My highest ambition will be satisfied if I can do anything to contribute to the progress of India and its people during the course of my tenure of this office.

ADDRESS FROM THE EURASIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

27th Feb. 1894. [A Deputation of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association waited on the Viceroy on Tuesday afternoon, the 27th February, with an address of welcome. The Deputation was headed by Mr. H. H. Ryland, the President, who read the address, which pointed out the unique position of the Eurasian community as forming a connecting link between Europe and India, and urged its claims, in the matter of education and State employment, upon His Excellency's consideration.

His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I have to express to you my very warm thanks for the kind manner in which you have conveyed to

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me your congratulations on my acceptance of the high office which Her Majesty, the Queen-Empress, has been pleased to entrust to me, and I have also to thank you for the reference which you have made to that special incident in my father's life which all of us look back to with the greatest satisfaction.

I freely admit that you are perfectly justified in saying that the community which you represent occupies a unique position in this country, and, therefore, I am not surprised to find that the questions which are dealt with in your address which has just been read, are somewhat different from those which have been raised in the addresses of other Associations which have been kind enough to present me with their greetings since I arrived here. I admit at once, that it is not unnatural that, under these circumstances, you should look to the Government for advice and for assistance, but, in some of the questions mentioned,—for instance in those questions relating to education,—you refer to certain circumstances which are peculiar in their nature, and which therefore it would require some consideration on my part to deal with. But, Gentlemen, I would like to assure you that even in the short time which has been at my disposal, I have endeavoured to inform myself somewhat on the condition of matters which affect your community, although, as all that I can say is that, recognizing to the full your difficulties, I have not yet, I am afraid, been able to arrive at any conclusion which would be satisfactory either to you or to myself, I am sure that you will not expect from me, upon this occasion, any declaration, which would only be premature. This at any rate I have seen—though, perhaps, it is rather cold comfort to give—that there is no lack of sympathy either in the Government of India, or in those who have had an opportunity of looking into your case. The position which we are bound to take up is that which you very fairly and frankly state in your address when you point out that the financial condition of India at present is

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such a cause of anxiety to the Government that their energies are crippled, and their hands are tied in many directions which otherwise they would only be too glad to pursue. I cordially join with you in the hope that the time may come when our finances may again be in a condition in which we should be able more fully to consider the various claims, such as those of your Association, which come upon us.

Gentlemen, I do not think that you will expect me to enter into the various modes of assistance which you have specified in your address. I have a great sympathy, especially with those in which you ask for opportunities of employment. You appeal to me to follow the example of my father in the sympathetic treatment of these questions ; you may be sure that, not only will that be my highest ambition, but all these matters will have my fullest consideration : and of this I can assure you that any representations which you, from time to time, may wish to put before the Government I shall receive with gratitude : while, to-day, I have to thank you for coming to me in the cordial manner in which you have done, and for the good wishes which you have expressed for the success of my administration.

ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA TRADES' ASSOCIATION.

[A Deputation of the Calcutta Trades' Association, headed by Mr. E. F. Longley, the Master, waited upon the Viceroy on Wednesday afternoon, the 28th February, and presented him with an address of welcome. The address expressed the feeling of the Association that in accepting the Viceroyalty His Excellency was actuated by a high sense of duty, and that his administration would be characterised by justice and impartiality; it recalled the services rendered to the country by the late Lord Elgin, whose name was still revered and remembered with gratitude, and the Association were assured that His Excellency would evince a similar interest in Indian affairs, and that he would encourage industrial and local enterprises. They were already aware of His Excellency's warm interest in education; they dwelt upon the serious difficulties entailed upon them, and upon the country, by the unsettled state of exchange, and urged immediate action, and they concluded by congratulating the Viceroy on the peaceful condition of the country, and with an expression of good wishes for His Excellency and Lady Elgin.]

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have to ask you to be so good as to convey to the Trades' Association of Calcutta my cordial thanks for the kind terms of welcome which they have embodied in the address which has just been read, and to accept yourselves my acknowledgments of the courtesy you have shown in coming here to-day to present it to me.

Gentlemen, I assure you that I feel myself in a position of very great difficulty in finding fitting terms in which to respond to your address. It would be natural for me, in replying to so many friendly allusions to myself, and to my family, to wish to use terms as hopeful and glowing. You have been pleased to make references, and to express a confidence which I should be insensible indeed if I did not hear with pleasure, and which cannot fail to encourage me to endeavour to persevere in the adequate performance of the duty to my Sovereign and country, which I have undertaken by accepting the office which I have the honor to hold. But, *Gentlemen*, when I pass from that portion of your

Address from the Calcutta Trades' Association.

address, I am afraid that I do not find the opportunity which I would gladly seek ; I am afraid that I should appear ridiculous in your eyes if I proceeded to congratulate you upon the condition of matters affecting yourselves, or to ignore the difficulties which the present financial position must entail upon you. You yourselves have described the situation as it presents itself to you. You have spoken of the anxiety you feel, and the loss, and possible ruin, which you apprehend. I should be the last to deny the importance of finding, as early as possible, a remedy for this state of things. I think that you are within your right when you say that it falls to the Executive Government to propose a remedy, and I can assure you that the Government have given, and are giving, to this matter unremitting attention. As you will no doubt understand, this is not an occasion on which I could say anything of the particular measures which the Government of India may have to propose. All that it would be proper for me to say is this—that I should venture to ask from you a careful and deliberate consideration of any proposals which the Government of India may have to make, because I am sure that you and others would wish these proposals to succeed, and would, therefore, like to view them, not in a spirit of captious criticism, but in the light of the information derived from all circumstances bearing upon the question,—circumstances which, in my opinion, are of the widest application, and are not confined to this, or any other single part of the civilised world. I shall have great pleasure, Gentlemen, if I find that the proposals of the Government of India meet with your approval. However that may be, I would venture to assure you that, with regard to these matters of industrial pursuits, and of local enterprises, for which you bespeak my interest, I shall have the greatest pleasure in giving every assistance in my power in reference to matters which affect those whom I hope I may call my friends and neighbours, and, in the meantime, I have only to return to you my very best thanks for the good-

Address from the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

wishes which you have expressed in regard to Lady Elgin and myself during our sojourn amongst you.

ADDRESS FROM THE BENGAL NATIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE.

[On Wednesday, the 28th February, a Deputation of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce waited upon the Viceroy and presented him with an address of welcome. The address expressed the gratitude of the Association at living under a Government which was a guarantee of law, order, and tranquillity. Much had been done towards Railway construction, but further extension was still needed in the Province. From the devotion which Lord Elgin had shown in undertaking the duties of his office, His Excellency had the highest claim to their loyalty and assistance. They hoped that the Chamber might be given a voice in the Legislative Councils, and permitted, as hitherto, to make representations to the Government. They urged the unsuitableness of direct taxation in India, and that, if additional revenue were necessary, it could most conveniently be raised by Import Duties. The address concluded with friendly wishes, and the hope that His Excellency would make still more illustrious the name of his father "who laid down his life in the service of the country."

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I can assure you that it gives me very much pleasure to have an opportunity to-day of meeting with the representatives of the very large and important interests which have combined to form the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

I think that, in the days in which we live, there is very little danger of the importance of a country's trade being overlooked. Directly, or indirectly, subjects affecting its wants or aspirations are incessantly under the cognisance of every Government, and indeed I do not know that it would be too far to go if I said that, if any ambitious Sovereign or Minister wished to shelter himself in connection with an ambitious policy, he is very apt now-a-days to do so

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under an allegation of the imperious demands of trade. In this country, however, Gentlemen, I think I may say that our aims are more modest—shall I say more practical—we desire to develop the natural resources of the country. You say that what you desire is a guarantee of law, order, and tranquillity, and I rejoice to think that you find that guarantee in the Government to which I have the honor to belong. Naturally, you find that though much has been done, much still remains to be done. That, I imagine, will always be the case in a country with so large resources, but resources at the same time which, to so large an extent, remain latent, and where difficulties of climate, difficulties of transport, difficulties in some cases arising from the disposition of our neighbours, impede the free flow of capital and its profitable employment. Let me assure you, Gentlemen, that every exertion that is possible, so far as I am concerned, will be made to secure and continue that guarantee for law, order, and tranquillity, on which you place so much stress, and which, in my opinion, is the primary justification of British Rule. And if we, on our side, do our part, I think we are justified in looking with confidence to your performing your part, and that together we may be able to develop the resources of this great country, and, at the same time, to promote the material prosperity of its inhabitants.

Gentlemen, I am sure that there is no one here who will doubt for a moment my sincerity if I say that nothing would give me greater pleasure than if I was able to contribute something towards the removal of the obstacles to which I have alluded, or the sweeping away of restrictions to the full employment of capital, but, at the same time, there is no one here who will require from me a word of explanation of the reason why that pleasure is denied to me, at any rate for the present. You yourselves have stated that you appreciate the difficulties in which the Government of India is placed, and all that I can say is that I, on my part, not only thank you for the suggestions which you have made to-day

Distribution of Prizes at the Bethune School.

as to the best means of meeting our difficulties, but shall always be glad to receive from you, who are so well acquainted with the various branches of commercial transactions, any information which you may be pleased to lay before me with reference to these topics.

Gentlemen, I have only, in conclusion, to thank you very sincerely for the cordial terms in which you have expressed your welcome. Much of my time, during my tenure of office, must naturally be passed in your midst, and I hope that nothing will occur in the discharge of my duties that will prevent the continuance of this good will.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE BETHUNE
SCHOOL.

[The Viceroy presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the Bengali girls of the Bethune School at 5 P.M. on Monday, the 5th March 1894. Owing to the unusually hot weather, Lady Elgin was unable to be present. There was a large audience, and at the conclusion of an interesting programme of music and singing, the reading of the Annual Report, and the distribution of the prizes, His Excellency spoke as follows:—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—My first duty on this occasion is to offer to you, on behalf of Lady Elgin, her very sincere regret at not being present at this interesting assembly. She had fully intended to keep the promise which she made to Sir Comer Petheram, but I have received on all hands the assurance that this season is exceptionally hot, even in the annals of Calcutta, and therefore you will, I am sure, agree with me that, for her coming new to the climate, it is only reasonable and proper that she should observe the dictates of prudence and the orders of her medical adviser. It is for that reason, and for that only, that she has not accompanied me, but I am sure that she will only be too

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glad to take a future, and more favourable, opportunity of visiting this school, and seeing for herself the manner in which it works.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to say at once that I am not coming here to-day to inflict upon you a formal, or formidable, speech on education. I have come here merely to view an institution which I regard with interest, and to say, with your permission, a few words expressive of the friendly feeling which I entertain for it. I have looked with interest into the record which has been placed in my hand with regard to the school. I find that it has already attained a respectable age, and I say so with greater freedom, because I see that its first start was on the 7th May 1849, and I myself, about a week later, first embarked on the perils of this human life. (*Applause.*) Well, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, in the course of those years, this institution, like many human institutions, has had its ups and downs, but I do not think that that is altogether to be deprecated in human institutions in general, or in educational institutions in particular. It is, no doubt, highly satisfactory when one can look back upon an unbroken career of success, but when we know that there have been difficulties which have had to be faced, and that changes have had to be made by which we have greatly improved the condition of things, that I think is also a satisfactory retrospect, and the fact that the Committee of the school are now able to say, as I understand them to do in the Report that we have just heard read, that they are satisfied with the present position of the school is, I think, looking back to its history, a very gratifying conclusion to have come to.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I come from a country,—the country of Scotland,—in which we have been rather apt to pride ourselves upon our education. According to our customs, we have long had a traditional system by which girls, as well as boys, have had thrown open to them educational advantages. During the last twenty years we have also

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been able to administer a system carrying with it compulsory powers, by which every child above the age of seven has been obliged, or has been supposed to be obliged, to attend school. Besides this, it is not to be wondered at that, in a country like Scotland, municipal institutions have taken a great interest in education, and in the education of girls as well as boys. One of the last meetings which I had an opportunity of attending before I came out here was in connection with a very large school, containing, I think, nearly 1,000 girls, which had been established by a great Municipal Corporation, the Merchant Company of Edinburgh, and which had just had a considerable addition made to its magnificent pile of buildings. Again, I had an opportunity, before I left, of seeing another school—of which you are in part an exemplification—a boarding school—because, as a general rule, the schools in Scotland have been day schools—where a large number of girls were being prepared for the higher branches of education. But what I was going to say was this,—not to suppose that you could emulate, or adopt, the Scotch system of education in this country, but that it struck me rather forcibly that, when I attended the Convocation of the University of Calcutta the other day, I saw, for the first time, lady graduates admitted to the degree of B.A. I believe that the time is near at hand when Scotland may have the same opportunities, but you, at any rate here, have led the way, and your lady graduates, whom I saw on that occasion admitted to the degree of B.A., are in advance of their Scotch fellow-students. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the whole question of the education of women is one of very great interest on which there are many divergent opinions, but I think it is recognised now that, at any rate, we can say this, that, whether we think, or we do not think, that it is a good thing for the mind of woman to be trained in the same way as that of man—(and I may freely confess, for my part, that I do not go

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the whole length on that subject)—there are limits to feminine endurance; at the same time I fancy most of us agree that, for those gifted ones who have the physical strength, and the energy and ability to pursue the studies which we of the rougher sex are obliged to face in order to cope with the troubles of life, for them, at any rate, there should be an opening, and they should be able to retain the position which they have earned, and be recognised as worthy of the distinctions which man has, in former days, reserved to himself. (*Applause.*)

As I understand it, your school here has two objects in view. It has, I think, in the first place, the object which was prominently set before it by its founder,—the education, namely, of Hindu girls; and, in the second place, it has also before it the opening to girls of all nationalities of the higher branches of education in this, the only institution, as the Report says, which is available now for the higher training of Indian women. I would venture to say that you should not be disappointed if the numbers in the higher branches are comparatively small. It appears to me that the success of your students at the Calcutta University, to which I have already alluded, is a sufficient prize for you in the meantime, and that you may look forward, in years to come, to an increase in usefulness, as the circumstances of the time open up those opportunities of usefulness to you. I venture to think that it is a very gratifying circumstance that, in the Report which we have heard to-day, your Committee have been able to state that they have received a sum of money for the institution of a prize in memory of one who shared with Mr. Bethune in the early care of this school. It must be a gratifying thing to all of us who belong to the West to know that Mr. Bethune took so great a care for the moral and intellectual well-being of those amongst whom his life had been spent, but I think it is also extremely gratifying to us all to feel that you have not failed to recognise the fact that he did not stand alone, and that he had with him the

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support of native opinion, which I am sure we all hope will be continued, and which will best secure the prosperity of this school in the future. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to congratulate Miss Bose, the Lady Principal, for the success which has attended her energetic labours in this school. We have heard the entertainment which has been given by the pupils, in which they have had the assistance of voluntary teachers, to whom the thanks of the Committee are due. (*Applause.*) We have seen also that the pupils have had their merits recognised by the presentation of prizes, which, in some cases, must have formed a very good nucleus for a library, (*laughter*) and we know also that we have friends—like Dr. Rashbehary Ghose—who have shown their interest in the school by giving medals to pupils of distinguished merit, (*applause*) and I wish to congratulate the young lady who on this occasion has carried off that distinction. (*Applause.*)

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think I have done my duty. I have only, in conclusion, to wish this school prosperity in the future. It may be that there are difficulties,—*e.g.*, pecuniary difficulties,—of which the Report does not speak, but which may lie behind it; but, whatever those difficulties are, I hope and trust that, amongst those who are present, there are some who will come forward and assist the Committee, and will see that this school does not fail for want of support, and that the school will go on and prosper, and increase the opportunities of learning, which are, I believe, so necessary to this as to other countries. (*Applause.*)

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF RAI KRISTODAS PAL.

[On Tuesday afternoon, the 6th March, the Viceroy unveiled the statue of the late Rai Kristodas Pal, Bahadur, C.I.E., in the presence of a large assembly, including His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Lady White, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Lady Elliott, and representatives of almost every influential family in Calcutta, Mahomedan as well as Hindu. His Excellency, who was accompanied by the members of his personal staff, Lord and Lady Abingdon, Mr. Mowbray, M. P., and others, arrived at 4-30, and was received by a deputation of the Executive Committee of the Memorial Fund. Sir H. T. Prinsep presided, and, in asking the Viceroy to unveil the statue, reviewed at some length the various phases of Kristodas Pal's career—as patriot, statesman, politician and journalist. His Excellency, in addressing the assembly, spoke as follows :—]

6th March 1894. *Sir Thoby Prinsep, Ladies and Gentlemen*,—I have to express my obligations to the Committee for giving me the opportunity of being present and taking part in the proceedings of to-day. I think it is desirable on these occasions to distinguish between the functions of the different speakers. It is no part of my duty to enter into the biography of the man whose memory we are met here to honour. That duty has been performed—and I am sure has been performed to your satisfaction—by Sir Thoby Prinsep, (*applause*) who has been able to speak as an old friend; and, in recording the services of a man to the community, it is always a great advantage to be able to speak from personal acquaintance, and to be able to refer to recollections and the personality which a distinguished man never fails to impress upon those with whom he comes into contact. My duty is a very different one. I can speak from no personal knowledge of Kristodas Pal's character, or characteristics, and it would be absurd, therefore, for me to detain you at any length on this particular branch of the subject. But, at the same time, I believe there is a place for me also. It is common enough to appeal to the judgment of posterity, though perhaps in the case of Kristodas

Unveiling the Statue of Rai Kristodas Pal.

Pal, whose premature death took place only ten years ago, it is somewhat too early to appeal distinctly to the judgment of posterity. But there is another judgment to which we may appeal. We may appeal, I think, to the judgment of those whose duty it is to study contemporary history, to weigh the actions of those who take part in public life in any prominent manner, and to formulate, in their own minds at any rate, some opinion as to the position and merits of the actor. I am here to-day, because, in my opinion, it is established that Kristodas Pal can appeal confidently to the judgment to which I have referred, and I feel, therefore, that it is right and proper that I, in virtue of my office, should be present on this occasion to testify to that judgment. (*Appaluse.*) Ladies and Gentlemen, I think there can be no surer test of strength of character, and energy of disposition, than the determination to get knowledge in spite of all disadvantages. I think that there is no larger demand which can be made upon the higher qualities of educated men than the successful conduct of one of those organs of public opinion which so powerfully influence our daily life. Skill in acquiring information; discretion, courage, and impartiality in the use of it; literary culture and knowledge in expressing it: those are qualities which every man does not possess. Nothing, further, can test better the temper and judgment of a man than to take part in public life, and I should say not the least in municipal life, and there to meet the various dispositions of various men and the various feelings which arise in the different questions which come up for decision, and to be able—as we have been told that Kristodas Pal was able—to express his opinion, not only with ability, but with a fairness which gains for him much power.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to be here because it appears to me from the records which have been put before me, and from the speech which we have just heard, that Kristodas Pal was such a man as I have endeavoured to

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describe, and that it was for that reason that he earned the confidence and respect of his countrymen, including in that term not only those of his own blood and lineage, but those also, like our friend who has just spoken, who recognise in such matters no distinction of race.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to be present on this occasion with the inhabitants of this city and district to take part in the completion of the work of this Committee. I venture to hope that the statue which I shall now have the honor to unveil will serve two purposes: in the first place, that it will recall to those who had the acquaintance and friendship of Kristodas Pal the familiar features which they loved, and in the second place, when those whose affectionate recollections are now present have passed away, that this memorial will serve to remind those who come after us and occupy our places that we have handed down to them this statue as a permanent memory of Kristodas Pal, a man who, in his day and generation, did his duty firmly, honorably, and well.

THE TARIFF BILL.

10th March 1894. [A special meeting of the Governor General's Legislative Council was held at Government House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 10th March, to discuss the Bill to amend the law relating to Customs Duties, and for other purposes, popularly known as the Tariff Bill. A large number of visitors were present. There had been considerable agitation and dissatisfaction in consequence of the omission of cotton goods from the schedule of dutiable goods under the new Bill. The Hon'ble Mr. Westland presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill, and the Rules of Business were suspended by the President to admit of the Report being taken into consideration. A discussion arose on Mr. Westland's motion that the Report be taken into consideration, in which most of the Members of Council took part, the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair (the representative of the mercantile community of Calcutta) opening the debate by moving, as an amend-

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ment to Mr. Westland's motion, "that the Bill be re-committed to the same Select Committee." A division was taken on the amendment, with the result that 11 votes were recorded against it, and 7 in favour of it; the amendment was therefore lost. His Excellency the President explained that, under the circumstances, he did not think it necessary to record his vote. The Bill was subsequently passed into law on the motion of Mr. Westland. In closing the debate on Mr. Playfair's amendment, His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

Before a vote is taken on the amendment, I desire to say only a very few words. I do not think that any good purpose would be served by my entering upon the general debate, or renewing the arguments which my Hon'ble Colleague, who is in charge of the Bill, has put before you in support of the proposal that the Bill now before the Council should be passed. Still less shall I enter upon any of the personal considerations which have come somewhat prominently before the Council on this occasion. I agree with the main points of the description of individual responsibility which have been given by General Brackenbury. For myself, however much I may regret that the first large measure which has come before the Council since I have had the honor of presiding here, is one that has given rise to so much dissatisfaction, I think there is no one who will doubt that my duty in the matter is plain. The point which I wish to impress upon the Council is this, that it must not be supposed that those concerned in the Government of the Indian Empire, either in this country, or in England, were not aware that objections could be taken to the form of the proposals embodied in the Bill before the Council. The Acts of Parliament prescribe the procedure by which decisions, such as that involving taxation, are arrived at, and you may take it that all the proper procedure has been faithfully observed, and that the Bill before us is the result of a decision constitutionally arrived at.

At the same time we who have been entrusted with the

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Government of India in this country have recognized that, in a case like this, where, as in all matters of taxation, it is impossible to allow much time for the various stages of a Bill, it was our duty to obtain for ourselves, and for Her Majesty's Government, all the information available as to the course of public opinion in reference to this measure.

It has been evident that the very deepest interest has been taken in this measure by all sections of the community, and in all parts of the country. And I do not think I am exceeding my duty in saying that, so far as my observation goes, this keen interest has found an expression perfectly legitimate, and not exceeding the limits of fair discussion.

I think I can assure you that the views entertained in this country, to which public expression has been given, both before and since the introduction of this Bill, have been communicated to the Secretary of State, and fully considered by Her Majesty's Government, and I am able further to state that, if after an interval sufficient to judge of the position as affected by the Tariff Act, the course of exchange, and other circumstances, there is no improvement, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to receive a further representation on the subject.

In the meantime it has not been possible to alter the arrangements already announced, and it is, therefore, our duty to ask the Council to proceed now with the Bill, and to pass it through its remaining stages.

The question which I have to put to the Council is "that the Bill to amend the Law relating to Customs Duties, and for other purposes, be re-committed to the same Select Committee."

[The motion was negatived.]

PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS, CALCUTTA.

[On Saturday afternoon, the 17th March, Her Excellency the 17th March 1894. Countess of Elgin distributed the prizes to the Presidency Volunteers of Calcutta, the Viceroy having previously inspected the Corps. The proceedings took place in the grounds of Government House, and were witnessed by a large number of spectators. After the formal inspection of the Corps, His Excellency addressed them as follows :—]

Colonel Chatterton, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Presidency Volunteers,—I assure you it is a great pleasure to me to meet you to-day, and to have this opportunity of, for the first time, assuming in public the position of Honorary Colonel which has been held by my distinguished predecessors. I regard it not merely as a personal compliment, but as an outward sign of the mutual confidence which subsists between yourselves and the Government which I represent. I feel that it indicates that you are confident in our good-will, and that we, on our side, are anxious on every occasion to testify to our sense of the value of the Volunteer movement, and to the loyalty and devotion which we know animates your ranks.

I believe that, in the present instance, I have not to call attention to so many pre-eminent successes as have been attained on some former occasions, but, at the same time, that we can look back upon the past year as being one of continued and steady progress. The Calcutta Light Horse has, I believe, attained the highest figure of strength since its formation. It has held its usual camp of instruction under, I understand, favourable circumstances, especially in the matter of the weather which, on this occasion, falsified repeated predictions. By what I may call a fortunate accident, I was present myself at a part of the inspection of the Corps in, I ought to say, an entirely unofficial capacity, but I was not surprised to learn that the result of the inspection was a warm commendation from the Inspecting Officer.

Presidency Volunteers, Calcutta.

With regard to the Cossipore Artillery, I have to congratulate them on having raised and completed the Third Battery, and that throughout they have been able to show increasing strength and efficiency. The record of 220 present in the muster on parade for inspection is, I think, satisfactory to those who have the interests of the Corps at heart.

The reputation of the Calcutta Rifles is so well known, both in drill and in shooting, that I am sure there is no one who will not be prepared to hear that it has fully maintained it during the past year. I notice particularly a marked increase in F. Company, but, throughout the year, the strength has been maintained, and I hope will continue to be maintained. I do not think that I shall anticipate the prize list, or the share in the duties of the day which fall upon Her Excellency, by calling attention to individual merits, but I should like to say that I am glad to hear that the fame of the Battalion was sustained at the Central Meeting at Meerut, and that the Calcutta Rifles sent a strong contingent to the team which successfully met the Army in the competition there.

There is no Corps of Volunteers that I have seen with greater interest since I came to India than the Railway Volunteers, and I am glad to learn that the Eastern Bengal Railway Volunteers have continued, as in the past, to show a record of increasing strength; and as, during the last year, they have received the addition of the services of an Adjutant from the Regular Army, I have no doubt that they will continue to show increasing efficiency in the future.

Colonel Chatterton, in your presence I have some doubt in calling myself a veteran, but my service with the Volunteers dates from 25 years ago. I must confess that I never rose beyond the ranks, but I have the greater interest in viewing the Cadet Corps of the Calcutta Volunteers this afternoon from the fact that, at that time, I carried a rifle in the Eton College Volunteers. I am exceedingly glad to see

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the very prosperous condition of the Cadet Corps upon this occasion, and to know that its members have realised that volunteering is not merely a pastime, but that they devote themselves in earnest to learning their drill and making themselves efficient in the use of their weapons, and also in the cultivation of those physical exercises which are so very beneficial to their bodily strength. I have no doubt that the interest taken in this particular Battalion by my friend the Lieutenant-Governor, and the competitions which he has instituted, have done much to foster the movement, and I shall be exceedingly glad if anything I can do will help to increase its usefulness.

Colonel Chatterton,—On this occasion I naturally must speak of events which have taken place for the most part before my arrival in this country, and from information which I have derived from others. If I have the honour and pleasure of meeting the Presidency Volunteers here another year, I shall hope to speak from observation of my own. I do not, of course, mean for a moment that I would assume the rights of an Inspecting Officer, or enter on a criticism of their merits, but I wish to assure the Presidency Volunteers that, so long as I have the honour of being connected with them as Honorary Colonel, I shall watch with interest their progress, and the events which influence it from time to time, and I shall hope and believe that I shall find therein the same record of steady persevering performance of duty as that which has brought about the display of this afternoon.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1894-95.

27th Mar. 1894. [The Hon. Mr. Westland, Financial Member of Council, made his Financial Statement for 1894-95, in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, on the 22nd March, and the discussion of it took place on the 27th idem. The discussion was opened by the Hon. Mr. Playfair, who was followed by the Hon. G. R. M. Chitnavis, the Hon. the Maharaja of Ajudhia, the Hon. Fazulbhai Vishram, the Hon. Sir Griffith Evans, the Hon. Dr. R. B. Ghose, the Hon. Lieutenant-General Brackenbury, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. At the close of the discussion His Excellency the President spoke as follows:—]

The time has now come when the discussion on the Budget Statement of the year must, so far as this Council is concerned, come to a close. It has, on this occasion, I think, been broken up into two parts, for the introduction of the Tariff Bill forestalled, and I think necessarily forestalled, much that would otherwise have been appropriate to the proceedings of to-day. On the whole, I do not think that the Government of India have any reason to be dissatisfied with the prolongation of the criticism to which they have been subjected.

It has been acknowledged on all hands that our embarrassments have been serious, but financial embarrassments may proceed from various causes. I do not think that, on this occasion, there has been any disposition to think that our embarrassments have arisen from causes under our control. Criticisms there, no doubt, are—what system of administration of human affairs could expect to escape them?—of different branches of our policy, but I think it is admitted on the one hand that, in regard to expenditure, we have been, and are, exerting ourselves to keep our expenses within bounds. We are doing so, subject, of course, to the stipulation that we must maintain in complete efficiency that system of government which has been built up in India, on which our position in India depends, and which it is our duty to India to conserve: I quite agree with the views

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expressed by my honourable friend Sir Griffith Evans, when he pointed out that the development of an Empire necessarily lays upon us fresh duties, and that fresh duties must often mean fresh, or increased, expenditure, but I think that General Brackenbury, in the statement which he has made with regard to military expenditure, has shown that the Government of India are willing to submit the details of their expenditure to the Council, and also, so far as is possible, to keep these increased demands within the limits of the funds which are at their disposal. On the other hand, without entering into any matters 'of controversy, I think that the general lines of the fiscal policy which was adopted last summer have been recognised as having been forced upon the Government of India, and as having been the best that circumstances permitted. The Secretary of State has announced, in the most emphatic terms, that the Mints will remain closed, and that announcement has, I believe, met with pretty general approval in this country.

This, then, being the position, I think that the principle on which it was necessary to frame the Budget, now before the Council, becomes pretty clear. Some objection has been taken to its being a transitional Budget; but what else was open to us? A great operation like that of last summer cannot be carried out in a day, though people talk sometimes as if it could be done by the stroke of a pen. Circumstances have tended to prolong somewhat the period of transition,—circumstances, as I have said, beyond our control, and which depend, to a large extent, on the general conditions of trade, and also on schemes of legislation in other countries. I do not think, therefore, that the Government would have been justified in treating the position now before them as one with the characteristics of permanency, or as one to be met, at all events in full, by permanent measures.

Like other Members of the Council, I do not propose to renew the argument of the question whether in the

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Import duties, now re-imposed, the duties on cotton ought to have been included. The view taken by the Government of India has been expressed by the Financial Member, and will appear from the papers that will be laid before Parliament. All that I would say is that no object is advanced by undervaluing the strength of the opposition to it. For my part, I have no doubt whatever that Her Majesty's Government have considered this subject with the earnest wish to serve the true interests of India. They have thought it their duty not to consent to a duty on cotton goods at this moment, looking, as they are bound to do, to all the interests of the Empire of which India is a part. But they have told us that they will be ready, if necessary, to reconsider this question in the future. I venture to think that it is a mistake to suppose that no advance has been made. I believe that a body of opinion has been created, not only here but in England, which may very materially affect the decision to be arrived at in the future. In the discussion of this question I would urge that it is quite possible to lose nothing of the strength and determination to do what my honourable friend Sir Griffith Evans described as bringing pressure upon the Secretary of State, while looking matters fully in the face, and recognising that, in practical politics, we sometimes have to take into account opinions with which we do not agree, and to calculate with all calmness what the attainable balance may be. In this connection I was glad to hear the remarks of the Honourable Mr. Fazulbhai Vishram. I am not to be taken as indicating any view of the manner in which an arrangement may be arrived at, but as an illustration of the spirit of fairness which I should like to see used. I was glad to hear him, as a mill-owner, say that he was willing to consider the imposition of an Excise Duty.

I should like to add that I have a great sympathy with the dislike expressed by so many Members to its having been necessary to utilise, for the purposes of the year, sums

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which otherwise might have been available for the Famine Grant, and also the funds of Local Governments.

I confess I think there is some confusion of thought in reference to the position of the Famine Grant. I do not understand how it can be supposed possible for a Government to bind its successors in all time coming, to spend its revenues in a certain manner, whatever their judgment of the respective claims upon them may be at the time, and, as a matter of fact, from the quotations which have been read, it does not appear that the Government of that day wished to do so. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has given us some very interesting information showing the good purpose to which this Grant has been put, and the extent to which the objects proposed by those who established the Grant has been met. The Honourable Sir Griffith Evans spoke of a statement by Lord Northbrook, and described this Grant as a percentage for repairs, but I think he will admit that a percentage for repairs is less on a well-constructed building. At the same time, for my part, I should be very sorry to take up the position that we had done our work in the construction of the class of works of this character. The Honourable Mr. Playfair has drawn an unfavourable comparison between India and America in the provision of Railways. I do not know that the comparison would be complete without a consideration of the circumstances of the two countries, and especially, as the Honourable Mr. Westland has pointed out, of the extent to which private enterprise has influenced the matter. It would be highly desirable were we to see private enterprise giving more assistance to us in this country; but, as the case stands, I maintain that the Government has been right to regard the withdrawal of the Famine Grant, and the contributions from Local Governments, as temporary parts of their Budget. At the same time, I quite see that in looking upon these parts of our Budget as temporary, we may, perhaps, be increasing our difficulties in the future. That is a disadvantage which we shall have to face when

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the time comes. It is a part of the position which it will be our duty to call the special attention of Her Majesty's Government to, if, or when, the time comes for us to ask for the reconsideration of our taxation which they have promised. In the meantime we must do our best with the means at our disposal.

ADDRESS FROM THE LUCKNOW MUNICIPALITY.

2nd April 1894.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin left Calcutta on the 30th March and arrived in Lucknow on the 31st. On the 2nd April, a deputation of the Municipal Board of Lucknow waited upon His Excellency at Government House and presented him with an address of welcome. The address expressed the Board's deep recognition of the importance of the trust committed to them by the gift of local self-government; it described the efforts they were making as regards sanitation, medical institutions, education, and a water-supply, and concluded with a hope that the Viceroy would soon favour them with another visit.

His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I have to express to you my grateful thanks for your kindness in coming here this morning, for the welcome which you have given me to your city, and for the friendly sentiments which you have expressed in the address which has just been read. I am sure there is no one who pays a visit to India who would not put early in the list of his engagements a visit to the famous city of Lucknow. I have, in the few hours since my arrival, seen enough to make me look forward with pleasurable anticipations to completing my acquaintance with the scenes of interest and beauty which I know abound here. Gentlemen, many of those scenes are connected with historical events, and events bound up with strife and bloodshed. Your address reminds me that, even in these days of peace, we have still enemies which we must face. All over the world the struggle is going on with three most potent foes—dirt, disease, and

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ignorance, and I rejoice to hear that you have recognised that Municipal Corporations stand as the advanced posts of our armies on whom the brunt of conflict must fall, and who need, just as much as soldiers need, the virtues of courage, of steadiness, and perseverance.

I am glad to hear from the address which has been read the record of what you have done, and your profession of faith for the future. Nothing, in my opinion, is more essential for the material well-being of your inhabitants than a plentiful supply of fresh pure water, and nothing is more needful for the moral cultivation of the community than the training which you are giving to girls, as well as boys, in order to fit them for their future duties as citizens.

I hope that the success which has attended your efforts will encourage you to persevere in them, and will also act as an incentive to others in stimulating them to follow your example.

Gentlemen,—You have also accorded to me a welcome as the representative of our Sovereign, the Queen-Empress. I am fully aware of the responsibilities which thereby fall upon me, but I recognise also that in addresses, such as those from your Corporation, I have an assurance that the responsibility of maintaining, and strengthening if need be, the common sentiment of loyalty is one that falls not only upon me, but is shared, and gladly shared, by you, the chosen and elected representatives of the people of India.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for the welcome which you have accorded to me personally, and also in my official capacity as the representative of our Sovereign.

TALUKDARS FÊTE AT LUCKNOW.

3rd April 1894. [On Tuesday evening, the 3rd April, the Talukdars of Oudh gave an entertainment at the Kaiser-Bagh in honour of the Viceroy and Lady Elgin's visit to Lucknow. All the principal residents, Civil and Military, of Lucknow were invited to meet Their Excellencies. The Kaiser-Bagh was brilliantly illuminated, and there was a display of fireworks. During the evening, the Talukdars, headed by the Maharaja of Ajudhia, presented an address of welcome to the Viceroy, in which they congratulated themselves on being the first to have His Excellency among them. His visit, they said, was an assurance that the interests of the Province would receive his careful consideration. The Association, which had hitherto endeavoured to be guided by lofty principle and a deep sense of responsibility, hoped that the Viceroy would take "a special interest" in them, assuring His Excellency of their devoted loyalty to the Queen-Empress. They would endeavour as hitherto, they said, to promote the true interests of their country, and more especially of their Province, feeling confident of success under the kindly and sympathising rule of Sir C. Crosthwaite, whose confidence and good-will they had, they hoped, secured. They thanked the Viceroy for accepting their invitation, and trusted His Excellency would visit them again and hold a Durbar.

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Maharaja, and Gentlemen, Talukdars of Oudh,—I have to thank you for the many friendly sentiments which have been expressed in the address which has just been read. They have been expressed, not for the first time, for I have already had an opportunity of meeting a deputation of the Talukdars of Oudh who did me the honour of coming to Calcutta in order to welcome me to India. Gentlemen, on the present occasion you are good enough to extend to me a welcome to your own Province, and for these reiterated acts of courtesy I wish to express to you my heartiest thanks.

Gentlemen,—You are, I am glad to learn from your address, cognisant of the responsibilities which fall upon you in your position in this Province. This is probably not an hour, or an occasion, to enter into matters of business, but I venture to say that you, in the promotion of the best interests of your Province, will, I am confident, find the kindly support

Address from the Simla Municipality.

of your Lieutenant-Governor, to whose friendly disposition you have paid a deserved tribute ; and I also beg to assure you of my own warm interest in everything which pertains to the welfare of the Province of Oudh.

Gentlemen,—You are, I am sure, well aware that the duties of a great office like that which I have the honour to fill cannot fail to impose a certain strain, not only upon myself but upon the lady by my side, and it was, therefore, natural that, upon this occasion, we should desire to pay you more of a friendly visit than one of ceremony. If, therefore, some of those ceremonies, to which you allude in your address, may be absent, you will know that this is not due to any want of appreciation of your kindness, or of the importance of your Province, and that they are only deferred to a more fitting occasion. I beg, therefore, *Gentlemen*, to thank you for your kind reception of us to-night, and for the very splendid entertainment which your hospitality has provided for us. We are glad to find ourselves amongst the representatives of an Association whose loyalty to the Queen-Empress has been so often expressed, and which I am sure has never been more keen than it is now. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE SIMLA MUNICIPALITY.

[The Viceroy, with the Countess of Elgin and His Excellency's 9th April 1894. Staff, left Lucknow on the 7th April and arrived in Simla on the 9th. All the principal Civil and Military officials of Simla were assembled at Viceregal Lodge, and the Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the community, presented an address of welcome. The President (Colonel Robertson) read the address, which expressed the congratulations of the Corporation on Lord Elgin's assumption of the Viceroyalty, and offered him and Lady Elgin a cordial welcome to Simla. They referred to the late Lord Elgin, "whose services to India, at a most trying period of its history, would ever be gratefully remembered." They were specially thankful for the kindly assistance and treatment they had received from the Government of India, and they

Address from the Simla Municipality.

hoped His Excellency's Government would continue to exhibit that interest in the welfare of Simla which had hitherto proved so beneficial ; they rejoiced that Her Excellency had undertaken the Presidentship of the National Association for providing medical aid to the women of India, and they trusted that the sympathy and interest evinced by their predecessors in local charities and institutions would be continued by Their Excellencies.

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Colonel Robertson and Gentlemen,—I am greatly obliged to you for the address which you have just read, and for the handsome casket in which you have enclosed it. I confess that I have approached Simla with somewhat mixed feelings. You have been good enough in your address to allude, in terms which merit my deep acknowledgments, to the connection between my family and India. I doubt not that you are aware that I have left those at home to whom your words will be very grateful, and who, I am sure, are watching for the meeting of to-day, because their hearts have always been full of loving memories of Simla, and of happy days spent here. It has, therefore, been natural that Simla has, if I may say so, been a household word to me, and that it has been a place which I have long wished to visit, although I could little anticipate the circumstances under which I should come. But coming here now, and in succession, as you have said, to my father in the office which he held here, I have no greater wish than to maintain to their fullest extent the most friendly relations with yourselves, and I rejoice, therefore, to have the assurance—if assurance were necessary—contained in your address, that you are prepared to meet me at least half way.

Gentlemen,—When I turn from the merely personal side of the question, I also rejoice that you recognise and appreciate the value of a good understanding with the Government of India. I suppose that the delusion,—if I may so call it,—that the Government of India comes here to get rid of work, and on a mere pleasure trip, or holiday, is now

Address from the Simla Municipality.

passing very much away. We come here in order to seek in your health-giving hills to maintain, in its full efficiency, such power as we possess to serve the great Empire whose affairs we are called upon to administer. But, if that is so,—if we come here not as mere birds of passage, but as taking up our residence for some time among you, we have the duty, or shall I call it the privilege, to assume, to some extent, a share in the interests of the residents.

I believe that it is a tradition which I inherit from my illustrious predecessors that there should be a cordial friendship and good-will between Viceregal Lodge and the Municipality of Simla, and I hope and believe you will feel that that tradition is safe in my hands and in those of Lady Elgin.

Lady Elgin desires me to thank you for the reference which you have made to her in your address, and to assure you that if she has not yet been able to take so prominent a part in the great institution, of which she has become the Lady President, as she desired to do, that is owing to what, I hope, is merely the temporary effect of climatic influences, and that she is anxious in that, and in other matters affecting the community, to take her full share in the work.

Gentlemen,—I do not think I need detain you longer. I hope this is only the first of many friendly meetings, and I shall always remember with gratitude your kindly reception of me to-day.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF AMRITSAR.

31st Oct. 1894. [On Wednesday morning, the 24th October, the Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, left Simla on His Excellency's autumn tour. Their Excellencies first paid a brief visit to Dharamsala, and afterwards proceeded direct to Amritsar, where they arrived on the morning of 31st October, and were received non-officially by Colonel Hutchinson, Commissioner of the Lahore Division, and other local officials, and by Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary, and other members of His Excellency's Staff who preceded His Excellency here. Colonel A. Durand, Military Secretary, Surgeon-Colonel Franklin, and Captain Adam, A.-D.-C., accompanied Their Excellencies to Dharamsala. Their Excellencies left Amritsar at 3 p.m., the interval being spent in visiting the Golden Temple and other places of interest, and in receiving an address of welcome from the Municipal Committee at the Town Hall. The address offered a hearty welcome to Lord and Lady Elgin, and said that there were many in Amritsar who viewed the occasion with mixed feelings, inasmuch as it connected the past with the present. Over thirty years ago they had looked forward to offering His Excellency's illustrious father a welcome as loyal as that which they offered the Viceroy to-day, but an all-wise Providence had otherwise ordained it. They assured the Viceroy of the loyalty and attachment of all classes to the Throne and the Indian Administration. Amritsar was the centre of Sikhism, due to the presence of the Golden Temple, which was founded over 300 years ago. It was the recruiting ground of the Sikh Army and a large commercial entrepôt with a trade second in magnitude to no city in the Province. They congratulated His Excellency on having assumed office when the country was at peace within and without her borders, and they felt sure that, with the wisdom and firmness which marked the rule of His Excellency's father, that happy state of things would be maintained by Lord Elgin. As representatives of that important city, they fully recognised and endeavoured to discharge the trust and confidence reposed in them by the Government. They referred to the progress made in education, sanitation, medical aid, trade and commerce, and concluded by saying that the Imperial questions with which the traders of Amritsar were more immediately interested were Exchange and Railway extension. The former question, they were aware, was receiving much consideration from His Excellency and his Council, and so no doubt was the latter.]

Address from the Municipality of Amritsar.

In reply His Excellency spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipality of Amritsar,—I wish to express my thanks to you for the cordial terms of the address which has just been read, and also the interest with which I have paid my first visit to this famous city. It is a city which must be interesting to all, particularly to the traveller or to the student of history, but, as you have well put it in your address, the circumstances of thirty years ago make my coming here to-day of special interest to me, and an incident which I shall not easily forget. It would perhaps be too much to say that I resume to-day the tour which was interrupted thirty years ago, but, at any rate, I think I may venture to say, coming fresh from the scenes of Dharamsala—so dear and so sacred to me and my family—that I should be unworthy of the name which I have inherited if I did not feel inspired to follow the example of my father, who came to work and to die for you and amongst you. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, I hope you will pardon an allusion so personal to myself, but it is prompted by the feeling reference to the subject which occurs in your address.

Gentlemen,—I am exceedingly glad to hear from you, as representatives of the inhabitants of Amritsar, so satisfactory a record of the progress of this city. I am glad to know that you recognise that you have a trust confided to you, both by your fellow-townsmen and the Government, and it is for you to show that that trust is not misplaced. The record in your address is wholly satisfactory as to the progress not only in commerce but also in education, and in meeting those many wants of the community which can be best supplied by an organised Municipal Government. Allow me to assure you of my sympathy with you in the discharge of your responsible duties

As you recognise, it is impossible for me, speaking at this moment, to offer to you any promises or predictions as

Address from the Municipality of Amritsar.

to the course of Exchange, or the progress of Railway construction, but I can assure you that you only do the Government of India justice in saying that these matters are occupying their most earnest attention.

Gentlemen,—I think it is but natural in this centre of Sikhism that we should remember the deeds of the Sikhs in the ranks of the British Army, where they will always be welcomed as gallant comrades in arms ; but I observe that you have followed that paragraph in your address by another in which you remind me that I have taken up the duties of my office in a time of peace. I rejoice especially that, in a country where gallantry in war has made itself a home, you, as the representatives of this city, recognise as of the highest importance the blessings of peace, and that I can count upon you, not only for gallant soldiers in time of danger, but also for your support and encouragement in any efforts that lead to the preservation of peace in its widest sense. I have been glad to observe in my progress through this city some evidence that feelings of concord prevail here. (*Hear hear.*) I venture to think that we, each of us in our degree, can in no more fitting way show our loyalty to the Queen-Empress, which you have so fervently expressed in your address, than by using our utmost endeavours to promote that spirit of forbearance and good-will, which, whether as between nations, races, or individuals, is the surest foundation of peace. (*Applause.*)

[The Viceroy's remark regarding the feelings of concord prevailing in Amritsar had reference to a triumphal arch jointly erected in honour of Their Excellencies by the Hindu and Mahomedan communities. One of the pillars of the arch was crowned by the dome of a mosque and the other by a small Hindu temple.]

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUKKUR.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin, and Staff, 1st Nov. 1894. arrived at Sukkur on Thursday afternoon, the 1st November, and were received at the railway station by the Commissioner in Sindh, His Highness the Mir of Khairpur, and a number of the stipendiary Mirs of Sindh. The members of the Municipality were also in attendance and presented an address, in the course of which they expressed pleasure at being the first to welcome the Viceroy to the Province, and drew His Excellency's attention to the recent interruptions to through traffic from the breaching of the Indus embankments and the necessity for controlling the floods. They heartily welcomed Lady Elgin, and mentioned their interest in the Jubilee Hospital at Shikarpur, which they had helped to found and maintain, and which they were glad to hear Her Excellency intended to visit.]

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Sukkur,—I have to tender to you my warmest thanks for the cordial welcome which you have given me to your city and to the Province of Sindh.

I think I might, without presumption, describe the address which has just been read as an eloquent testimony to the advantages of a settled government, corroborated by the still more eloquent testimony of the facts. You have frankly admitted in your address that your town owes its existence, as a centre of trade and prosperity, to British rule, and you have warmly acknowledged the facilities which have been given to you by the Government in carrying out the duties of your administration. I need scarcely say that it is very gratifying to me, in the position which I have the honour to hold in the Government of India, and coming here to pay you my first visit, to hear this expression of your satisfaction. Allow me to say, gentlemen, that we, on our side, appreciate the claim which you, and the Province of Sindh, have on our attention. We are quite well aware how your prosperity here in Sindh depends on your not having too little water, and how damage is often done by your having too much. In fact one of my chief objects in visiting

Address from the Municipality of Sukkur.

Sukkur at this time was that I might have the opportunity of meeting my honourable colleague in charge of the Public Works Department on the spot. You know the services he has rendered in the Province of Sindh, and I think that you may safely leave your interests in his hands ; but, speaking in the railway station, I may perhaps be permitted to say that we are, both of us, sensible of the great importance of doing all in our power to obviate the inconvenience arising from the interruptions of traffic of which you, not unreasonably, complain.

Gentlemen,—I am desired by Lady Elgin to acknowledge, on her behalf, the welcome you have extended to her. She is gratified to hear of the interest which you take in the great work with which she is now connected, and which she is most anxious to carry on in the manner best calculated to be acceptable to the women of India. I can assure you that when she pays her visit to the Hospital at Shikarpur next week she will not forget the share you have in that institution.

Gentlemen,—In thanking you once more for the reception you have given me as the representative of Her Majesty, I hope I may be allowed to unite with you in your earnest prayers for the long life and happiness of our beloved Queen-Empress.

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ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF QUETTA.

[The Viceregal party left Sukkur on the 2nd November and 3rd Nov. 1894. arrived at Quetta at 5 P.M. on the following day. Here His Excellency was received by Sir George White, Commander-in-Chief in India, and his personal Staff, Major General Luck, Commanding the Quetta District, and the principal civil and military officers. The Khan of Khelat and the Jam of Lus Beyla, as well as many leading natives, were also present. An address of welcome was read to His Excellency on behalf of the residents of Quetta, in which they expressed their loyalty and attachment to the British Government and their satisfaction that the Viceroy had been able to honour Quetta with a visit during his first tour. The extension of the service of Sir James Browne, as Agent to the Governor General for Baluchistan, of whose capabilities and services they spoke in terms of praise, was also a matter of much gratification to them. They drew attention to the fact that Quetta forms an important link in the chain of strategic communication along the northern frontier, and remarked that His Excellency would have opportunities of becoming personally acquainted with the policy of defence so vigorously initiated and carried out by his predecessors. As regards local self-government, they pointed out that the rate-payers were in the anomalous position of possessing a Municipal President and Secretary without a Municipal body to assist the action of the executive, and they concluded their address by reiterating the feelings of pleasure "with which the people of India, nearly a year ago, greeted the arrival upon its shores of the illustrious son of an illustrious father, who nobly laid down his life in the discharge of his duty to this country."

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have to return you my best thanks for the welcome which you have given me to Quetta, and to acknowledge the loyalty to the British Government and to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress which animates it. I am sure there is no one who would grudge the fatigue of a railway journey to visit such an interesting spot as Quetta, and to any one who holds the high office, to which by the favour of Her Majesty I have been called, it becomes not merely a personal gratification but a necessary part of the performance of his duty towards the Empire over which he is placed, and I rejoice exceedingly that I have had an

Address from the Residents of Quetta.

opportunity of coming here on the occasion of my first official tour.

The strategic position of Quetta, to which you have referred in your address, is, I need scarcely remind you, no threat of aggression on our neighbours, but is one of those guarantees which the British Government has given to millions of our fellow-countrymen within the line of our frontier that they will be secured in the peaceful enjoyment of their rights, their privileges, and their possessions. This is, however, scarcely an occasion on which I should dilate even on so interesting a topic, and, for the same reason, I must refrain from discussing the manner in which the principle of Local Self-Government, of which I have always been a warm adherent, can best be applied to the conditions which prevail here. I am, however, able to say that Sir James Browne, to whom you have paid a well-merited and just compliment, and in whom you have expressed your confidence, has informed me that this matter is under consideration, and when the subject comes before me in due course, the points which you have mentioned will receive attention.

I have only now, gentlemen, once more to thank you for your address and for the kindly sentiments which it contains. (*Applause.*)

DURBAR AT QUETTA.

[On Wednesday, the 7th November, at 3-15 P.M., His Excellency the Viceroy held a Durbar for the investiture of His Highness the Khan of Khelat with the insignia of a G. C. I. E., and for the reception of the Baluch Chiefs and Sardars assembled at Quetta. The proceedings took place on the racecourse, in the Grand Stand, which was fitted up and arranged for the occasion. A large number of civil and military officers, and many ladies, were present, Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin occupying a seat on the gallery immediately behind the dais. Below the dais on a raised platform extending from end to end of the stand, seated in rows according to their rank, were the Chiefs, Sardars, and Maliks, numbering about four hundred, while beyond, in the open space on the racecourse, six columns of British and Native Infantry were drawn up, flanked on each side by two batteries of Artillery. The general body of spectators and the minor Chiefs and Sardars were seated before three o'clock, when the Jam of Lus Beyla arrived, and, following him at intervals, came Sir James Browne, Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan, the Khan of Khelat, and Sir George White, Commander-in-Chief, with his personal Staff. All these received salutes according to their rank. The Khan of Khelat and a number of Political Officers were seated on the Viceroy's right, Sir George White, Sir James Browne, the Jam of Lus Beyla and others being seated on his left. Shortly after 3 o'clock the Viceroy arrived, accompanied by the Foreign Secretary, both wearing the robes of the Order. A royal salute of 31 guns was fired, the troops presented arms, and the massed bands played the National Anthem. His Excellency was conducted to his seat by the Foreign Secretary, and was followed in procession by the members of his personal Staff.

7th Nov. 1894.

Before the formal proceedings of the Durbar commenced, Sir James Browne, addressing the Viceroy, expressed the pride and satisfaction of himself and the Baluchistan Agency that His Excellency on his first official tour had done them the honour of visiting Quetta so soon. They felt that this was not due to any special attraction of the country, nor to any commercial or financial advantages it might present, but to a feeling on the Viceroy's part that it was a suitable time for him, as soon as he came to India, to be able to make the acquaintance of the manly and loyal race of men who hold Her Majesty's north-west frontier over an extent of 1,100 miles. The manner in which the people on this frontier were led to accept British influence, and to submit their quarrels to British administration, thereby putting an end to the

Durbar at Quetta.

anarchy misery, and bloodshed which for centuries had been devastating it, was the result of the genius of one man. He (Sir James Browne) was one of the few European officials in that Durbar who was an actual eye-witness of the state of affairs when we first came here, and it was a matter of personal pleasure to himself, and he felt sure it would be a pleasure to the many friends, native and otherwise, Sir Robert Sandeman had, that he (Sir. J. Browne) had so early an opportunity of showing the Viceroy what one man's genius could do, and what the power of Englishmen had been over the wild tribes of the frontier. The conditions of Baluchistan now were very different from those which existed before we came to the country. The constitution of Khelat had been described by one of the ablest of a Viceroy's councillors as a marvel of practical politics and practical administration, and he hoped and believed that its rulers would be at all times loyal supporters of the British Government. Sir James Browne then proceeded to point out and describe some of the principal men present, men from all parts of the frontier who had interesting histories and had done good service, and concluded by remarking that he must here publicly acknowledge that although Sir Robert Sandeman's genius had founded the peace and prosperity, and had brought about the marvellous changes which had taken place within the short space of eighteen years, but for the support of his (Sir James Browne's) British and Native officers, of the Khan of Khelat, and the Jam of Lus Beyla and all the Sardars present, he personally felt he would be utterly unable to take up and carry on the office which His Excellency's predecessor had entrusted to him.

These remarks were received with applause and the Durbar proceeded. The Foreign Secretary read the Sovereign's grant of the dignity to be conferred on the Khan, who after being decorated with the ribbon, badge and star, and robed with the mantle of the Order, was invested by the Viceroy, in the name of the Queen-Empress, with the collar of the Order. After some further formalities, His Excellency the Grand Master, remaining seated, addressed the Durbar as follows :—]

Your Highness, Chiefs, and Sardars of the Khelat State, and of the Baluchistan Agency,—Nearly five years have passed since my predecessor met you here. By the inexorable laws of human existence such a period must bring in its train changes, whether for good or evil, and I could not expect to find myself here under circumstances precisely similar to those of Lord Lansdowne's visit. To one of those changes, which I know everyone here deplotes, I should like

Durbar at Quetta.

to allude at the outset. Lord Lansdowne described the officer standing by his side as one "who has the confidence of the Government of India, and whose name will, for all time, be honourably connected with this portion of the Indian Empire." I had not the privilege of the acquaintance of Sir Robert Sandeman, but there are some cases in which the record is plain beyond dispute. There can be no doubt that, by Sir Robert Sandeman's premature death, the Government of India lost an officer to whose indomitable courage and perseverance they owed much, and the people of Baluchistan a friend whose knowledge of them, and trust in them, they recognised by returning to him the largest measure of confidence. I have been glad to observe in Quetta many signs that his name is fresh in your remembrance. I am glad to learn that the more permanent tribute to his memory which you contemplate will take a form that will bear testimony to his belief in, and respect for, your native institutions. I am still more glad to see and hear evidence of increasing prosperity in Quetta and Baluchistan, because we can, in my opinion, find no better means of honouring him than by carrying on his life's work.

I must also unite with you in lamenting the deaths of Sir Assad Khan, Chief of the Sarawans, and Sardar Shingul Khan, Chief of Zhob. They were men from whom the Government had received much assistance, cut short by their untimely death.

Turning from these melancholy topics to the history of the district, I find here, too, changes which the progress of events has made inevitable. I do not intend to recapitulate the circumstances which resulted in your Highness being called upon to assume the government of Khelat. They will, no doubt, be fresh in the memory of my hearers.

Although the time has as yet been short, it has been necessary for your Highness to come to some decisions of importance for the welfare of your State, and I rejoice to be assured by Sir James Browne, than whom your Highness

Durbar at Quetta.

has no warmer friend, that you have, in the policy you have adopted, shown that you have a due sense of the responsibilities of your position. We, the British Government, look to your Highness so to administer the affairs of Khelat, that peace, good order, and contentment may prevail within its borders. That is the return which we have a right to claim for the protection which we can secure to you from outside aggression, and which we are now making more definite by the demarcation of the frontier. We seek not to interfere with local administration. It is our settled policy to pay all the respect we can, here and elsewhere, to the laws and usages, religious and social, to which the people are accustomed. Rightly administered, they will best supply the needs of the people, and it is for your Highness, with the advice and assistance of your Chiefs and Counsellors, to see that it cannot be laid to your charge that they have failed through want of energy or good will on your part.

Your Highness, Chiefs, and Sardars,—I do not think I can use a more powerful argument than to ask you to look around. There must be men here present who can remember this prospect before us when it showed neither house, nor tree, nor cultivated field. The material prosperity, which we can almost see growing around us, can be yours if you choose to take it. It is the duty of a ruler to make a good use of the resources of his State. If they are not used properly, or if they are not used at all for purposes of public utility, depend upon it not only will the resources of the State decay, but the difficulties of managing the State will increase. But if they are wisely expended, they will return to you a hundred-fold. The railway has opened up to you the markets of the world. It is for you to step in and reap the profits. You have a country which can supply fruit and other agricultural produce, which is well fitted for the breeding of horses, and whose mineral resources are undeveloped.

Durbar at Quetta.

It is with much satisfaction that I have heard that your Highness, by your generous treatment of the Jhallawans, has shown your readiness to encourage those who will lay aside ancient feuds and live a peaceable life. It has also been wisely determined to construct a road to Khelat, for nothing can better help the development of your country than additions made to the facilities for travel. Your Highness knows well that, in the representative of the British Government, you have an adviser of great experience, who has deserved your confidence, and I counsel you to take advantage of his assistance; and if the services of officers trained in works of any description be required, so as to enable you to construct them most economically, and to the best advantage, there will be no difficulty in putting them at your disposal.

Your Highness, Chiefs, and Sardars,—I have thought it incumbent on me to speak to you words of counsel on this occasion. It is, I think, an occasion of some importance to the future of Baluchistan. I rejoice that, coming here as I do on the earliest possible opportunity, I am able to see the germs of a prosperous future for this country. I rejoice that it is my privilege to convey to your Highness, by means of the ceremony in which we have just taken part, the assurance that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress sympathises with and appreciates the efforts which your Highness is making to develop the prosperity of your territory and its inhabitants.

I trust that the encouragement thus given by Her Majesty will stimulate your Highness to persevere in the course of progress, and if, as is most likely, my visit is not repeated, that my successor, when he follows me, will be able to congratulate you on the realisation of the hopes which I have ventured to foreshadow.

Chiefs and Sardars,—Knowing the loyalty which has animated you in the past, I cannot but think that, in the honour now done to His Highness you will feel you have a

Address from the District Board and Municipality of Shikarpur.

share. I call upon you to recollect it. His Highness, may have to hold the reins, but he will need willing hands to help him in his work. See that you do not fail him.

And to those here present who are more directly subject to British rule, I would only add that the Government of India, while it cannot tolerate or permit disorder, is ready and willing to recognise and reward true and loyal service.

I must bid you farewell. I shall carry with me, deeply engraven on my memory, the scene now before me, and the interest which it inspires in me for the people of Baluchistan will animate me with the desire to remain your firm friend in time to come.

ADDRESS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND
MUNICIPALITY OF SHIKARPUR.

9th Nov. 1894. [At Shikarpur, where the Viceroy spent a couple of hours on the morning of the 9th November, His Excellency received an address of welcome from the District Local Board and the Municipal Commissioners of Shikarpur. It was pointed out that Shikarpur was once an important centre of trade, but that railway extension had deprived it of many of its former advantages. The local trade was, however, now replacing transit trade. The joint address now presented was a symbol of the unanimity and harmony with which all classes and creeds in Sindh worked together for the public good. In welcoming Lady Elgin they expressed their gratitude to Her Excellency for her interest in and support of the cause of medical aid for the women of India, and for halting at Shikarpur to visit the female hospital. They regretted the transfer of the remaining head-quarter offices of the Collector to Sukkur and of the resident first class Magistrate, whom they hoped would be restored. They also earnestly urged further expenditure on irrigation in upper Sindh.

His Excellency the Viceroy in replying said :—]

Gentlemen,—I have to return you my best thanks for the kind welcome you have given me to this ancient and interesting city of Shikarpur.

Address from the District Board and Municipality of Shikarpur.

Having come through the passes which communicate with Baluchistan, I can well understand that this city has, in times gone by, been the emporium, in the days when the produce of Asia came by camel and mule to the richer districts of Hindustan; and I am glad to hear that, though the progress of civilisation has brought to us the iron horse, instead of the camel and mule, you are still able to anticipate that the loss which may come to you in the course of trade in one direction may be recouped in another, and that you can look forward, with some hope, to a prosperous future for this city in time to come.

I am exceedingly glad you are able to say in your address that it represents the united feeling of all classes and creeds in this town and district, and I can assure you that, as the representative of the Queen-Empress, nothing can be more gratifying to my feelings than to find that spirit prevailing.

Gentlemen,—I have heard with much pleasure of the interest which you have taken in the cause of education, and I am glad to know that in that matter also you observe the impartiality to which I have already alluded, and that you endeavour to foster the educational interests of all classes and creeds of the community.

You have alluded in your address to certain inconveniences which have naturally followed from the course of events, and perhaps more than anything else from the introduction of the railway, to which I have just referred. All I can say at this moment is that that is a matter which rests with the Government of Bombay and the Government of Sindh, but that in anything which may come before me you may be sure that the representations you have made will receive my best attention.

Gentlemen,—I have already had an opportunity of saying that the Government of India are fully aware of the great importance to the inhabitants of Sindh of the extension of irrigation, and we know also that there can scarcely be any more desirable investment for our money than

Address from the District Board and Municipality of Shikarpur.

irrigation works. At the same time we have of course to consider the requirements of the various provinces of this great Empire, and if in any degree we seem to be somewhat slower than you would desire, you must not think that it is due to any want of interest in your welfare and the increase of your prosperity, but that we are restricted by limitations which bound the resources even of the Government of India, and that we must proceed cautiously and prudently in order that the works may be efficiently and properly carried out.

I have only to say, as you have acknowledged in your address, that the Government of India have within the last few months authorised a considerable expenditure on irrigation works in Sindh, that they will be most willing to receive, and favourably consider, any projects that may be put before them; and, with regard to certain matters which I believe are interesting you here at present, I understand that the official representative of the Government of India intends in a short time to pay a visit to this locality, and to examine on the spot what can best be done to meet your wishes.

Gentlemen,—I can assure you that it has been a great satisfaction to Lady Elgin to be able to pay this visit to the hospital at Shikarpur, and to demonstrate to you the great interest she takes in the work of medical relief for the women of India. I believe that this is a district where that work can be carried on to very great advantage, and I hope native gentlemen will assist the work, and so help to carry it out that it may bring to their women that relief which it was the object of the Fund to establish.

Gentlemen,—I will not detain you longer, except to thank you, and, through you, the population of this city, who have turned out this morning and have greeted me with so much respect and cordiality, and to assure you that I have seen the interesting sights of this city with much pleasure and shall look back with great gratification to this part of my visit to Sindh.

ADDRESSES AT KARACHI.

[The Viceroy arrived at Karachi on Saturday morning, the 10th 12th Nov. 1894. November, and on the forenoon of the following Monday His Excellency received four deputations, representing the Municipality, the Chamber of Commerce, the Central National Mahomedan Association, and the Sindh Sabha, who presented him with addresses dealing with a great variety of subjects, such as railway extension, the breaching of the North-Western Railway by floods and the want of lateral railway communication, direct postal communication for the English mails between Aden and Karachi, irrigation, the decision of Government to close Karachi as a depôt for troops passing to and from the north-west and frontier, the friendly relations existing between the Hindus and Mahomedans of Sindh, the difficulties relating to Mahomedan education, agricultural indebtedness, etc. His Excellency replied collectively to the addresses in the following terms:—]

Gentlemen,—I have to thank you very much for your kind welcome and to express my sense of your courtesy in allowing me to address you collectively.

It was, I believe, on the 12th November 1887 that Lord Dufferin, who was the last Viceroy to visit Karachi, made to the addresses then presented to him one reply. For my own part I am encouraged to follow the precedent set to me by my predecessor, more particularly as in the addresses which I have now heard there breathes not only a spirit of agreement with regard to the matters of chief importance to this town and district, but also a spirit of the good feeling which animates you in those matters in which, as we know, differences of opinion often arise.

I have heard with satisfaction the Committee of the Sindh Sabha expressing, in the most emphatic language, in their address their approval of the policy of impartiality between the races initiated by my predecessor, which I can assure you it is the firm resolve of the Government of India, as now constituted, to maintain.

I rejoice to find in Sindh that those who approve that policy are prepared to support it in the best of all possible ways, namely, by cultivating friendly relations with their

Addresses at Karachi.

neighbours, and it only adds to our gratification when we find that the cause of education is one of the first to benefit.

The Mahomedan Association have called my attention to the difficulties which confront them in the educational race. These difficulties have already been pressed upon me, but I think that here in Karachi we are not without hope. You have yourselves established an institution in Karachi which already numbers 500 boys. Time unfortunately did not allow me on Saturday to do more than see the outside of the Madrassa building, and the same remark applies to the college; but I saw enough of the assemblage of students of the college, and of the boys of the school who met me with so much cordiality at the gates, and of the specimen of his boys' progress in technical instruction which Mr. Hassanally was good enough to present to me, to feel some confidence that the cause of education is in good hands. I trust that the good work may go on and prosper. If I might venture to offer a word of advice, I should say do not be discouraged if you find that you do not make quite as rapid progress as you would wish. From some experience in the initiation of educational work I have come to the conclusion that in this, above all things, you must look for ups and downs; but the proper way, as I think, to meet any temporary difficulties of this kind is to make sure that the education you offer is sound, solid, and practical, and then you have done your part and can look with confidence to the future. Above all things I hope you will maintain the cordial co-operation which now characterises your efforts in this province.

I can assure you that I join with pleasure in the congratulations to Mr. Hassanally on his success in the competition for the Indian Civil Service, not only because it realises and justifies to some extent the aspirations of his co-religionists, but because of the full and generous recognition which I find it receives in a prominent place in the address of the Sindh Sabha.

Addresses at Karachi.

I should not like to omit to mention the satisfaction with which I have heard of the liberality of the Mir of Khairpore, and I venture to hope that His Highness, like other rulers, will find a full return for benefactions of this character.

Gentlemen,—In the addresses which have been presented to me you allude to several topics of an administrative nature. You will understand that in dealing with these I must speak with considerable reserve. Some of them are matters which will properly be disposed of by your Commissioner, in whom you have expressed a just and merited confidence; some of them will be disposed of by the Governor of Bombay and his Council, and others will be dealt with in one or other of the departments of the Government of India itself.

It is absolutely necessary that I should observe the regular and constitutional procedure in these matters, and any rash or ill-considered expression by me would be far more likely to damage than advance your interests. I shall therefore not attempt to deal with all the subjects which are alluded to in the course of these addresses; but I venture to hope that my visit here, and your kindness to me, will not be entirely wasted. It will be something for me at any rate to have seen with my own eyes the capabilities of this important city and harbour, and to have had explained to me on the spot, as I had so completely by Major Morris, the facilities, the hopes, and the possibilities which are before you. This at any rate, I think I can say, that no one who has been here could suppose for a moment that it could be tolerated that this great outlet for the trade of India should remain permanently liable to frequent and lengthened interruptions of its communications with the interior. I had hoped to have been able to announce the decision of the Government of India on the steps to be taken to prevent these interruptions, but I can at least assure you that the matter has been most seriously

Addresses at Karachi.

considered, and that the representations of the Chamber of Commerce, and of others, have not been overlooked. I cannot doubt that, if for no other reason, at all events as a part of the military defence of our frontier, the complete security of the railways must be ensured. I do not think that I go beyond my province if I express my sympathy with you in the interruption that has taken place in the full use by the military authorities of those ample facilities which you have generously provided at your port for the embarkation and disembarkation of the troops. This, however, is evidently a matter which must be decided on the advice of the highest military authorities, and with a due regard to what is necessary for the health and convenience of the troops; but I venture to hope that the interruption of which you complain may prove to be a temporary one, because I believe the difficulties which have occasioned it are difficulties which the Government of India would most willingly remove if it had the means.

Gentlemen,—Allusion has been made in some of the addresses to a matter which you justly say has engaged Mr James's most serious consideration, and which I am glad to have had an opportunity of discussing with him.—I mean the question of the indebtedness of the landholders. It is a question which is not confined to the Province of Sindh, and which raises many and extremely complicated issues. The circumstances of one part of India are not the same as those of another, and the remedy which seems easy and applicable in one case may be unsuitable in another. I am glad to have heard the views entertained here, because I think the first thing in questions of this kind is to endeavour to collect such information as will lead up to the adoption of a general principle. I need scarcely assure you that in pursuing such an enquiry, the Government of India will have constantly in view the great object of setting free the cultivator of the soil, if that can be done legitimately, from conditions which fetter his industry and

Addresses at Karachi.

deprive him of his property in the land or in the crops he reaps.

Gentlemen,—I have already, on more than one occasion since I came to Sindh, acknowledged that in works of irrigation in this Province there is an almost boundless field for the profitable employment of public funds. No one can travel through the Province and mark the difference where the wilderness has been converted into a garden, and not feel inspired with a desire to contribute what he can to the furtherance of so beneficial a work; but I think the great thing in this matter is to secure steady progress, and Mr. James will, I believe, agree with me that we, who are now responsible for the Government of India, have shown ourselves not unmindful of this part of our duty.

Gentlemen,—I think I need not detain you longer. I have, however, once more to return to you my thanks for the very kind welcome which you have expressed in your addresses not only to myself but to Lady Elgin. You justly say that it will require all the strength and energy which I possess adequately to perform the great duties to which the Queen-Empress has called me; but it can only do one good to visit a part of this great Empire where one finds, as is the case here, a conspicuous spirit of loyalty, all the elements of future prosperity, and at the same time the kind and generous welcome which you have been good enough to accord to me.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE DUFFERIN HOSPITAL, KARACHI.

12th Nov. 1894. [On Monday afternoon, the 12th November, Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin, Lady President of the Dufferin Fund, laid the foundation stone of the Dufferin Hospital at Karachi. Her Excellency was accompanied to the site of the hospital by the Viceroy, Surgeon-Colonel Franklin, Honorary Secretary of the Dufferin Fund, and the members of His Excellency's Staff. Here a large number of spectators were assembled within a shamiana. A guard of honour was drawn up at the entrance, and a salute fired as Their Excellencies arrived. They were received by the Chairman and Provisional Committee of the Hospital. The Honourable Mr. Currie opened the proceedings by explaining the circumstances under which the hospital was started, the financial being the chief difficulty till Mr. Edulji Dinshaw offered to build the hospital on certain conditions which were accepted. It was, Mr. Currie said, with a feeling of keen satisfaction that they saw Her Excellency perform the graceful act of laying the foundation stone, and her good-will in promoting such a work would win for her the life-long gratitude of countless thousands of loving loyal hearts. Her Excellency then laid the stone amid the applause of the assembly, after which the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Mr. Currie, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am desired by the Lady President to return to you her best thanks for the kind welcome you have given her to-day at this interesting ceremony. I can assure you that it has afforded her the greatest pleasure to come here and to take part in this proceeding. Indeed I do not think that I go too far when I say that I am not quite sure, if it had not been for Lady Elgin hearing of this ceremony being likely to take place, that my visit to Karachi might not have been postponed; but I found that the Lady President of the Dufferin Fund was so determined to be present and to see this hospital founded that I really think if I had not consented to come here, she would have come by herself. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Mr. Currie has told you that the first thought of an institution of this kind in Karachi dates from the time, now seven years ago, when the Countess of Dufferin's Fund was instituted, and therefore I presume

Laying the Foundation Stone of the Dufferin Hospital, Karachi.

about the same time that Lord and Lady Dufferin visited Karachi. He has also told you the reasons why seven years have elapsed and the hospital has not yet been erected. I think that Lady Elgin and I may congratulate ourselves that our visit falls at the time when you are able to begin this work, and to do it by the kind act of Mr. Edulji Dinshaw. (*Applause.*) It affords great gratification to the Lady President and her Committee to find this work begun in Karachi by the generosity of one of her own citizens, and one who being himself a native of the country knows and appreciates the needs of the people for whose wants this hospital is intended to provide. (*Applause.*) Ladies and gentlemen, I can assure you on behalf of the Committee that they welcome and invite all the help and assistance that they can receive from native gentlemen and from the localities. It is of course necessary that there should be a Central Committee, and when there is a Central Committee it almost inevitably happens that the work falls into hands that are employed in other and official business. I can speak with some freedom in this matter, because I do not take an active share in the work. I leave that to the more capable hands of the Lady President (*applause*), but I can say that I see my colleagues,—men who are engaged from day to day in the arduous work of the Administration,—ungrudgingly devoting their spare time to the labours of this association. I venture to think that the reason why this assistance is so freely given is that the object it has in view is the cause of suffering humanity which, so long as the British nature remains what it is, will, I am sure, appeal with irresistible force to everyone for whatever aid they can give. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I do not think that I need detain you longer on this occasion. I have only to express on behalf of the Lady President her fervent hope and prayer that the building which will rise on this stone which has

Address from the Rawal Pindi Municipality.

been laid to-day will prove a cause of hope to many a fainting heart, a cause of health and happiness to many an afflicted household, and one more link in the bond which unites us all in this country, of every race and creed. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE RAWAL PINDI MUNICIPALITY.

16th Nov. 1894. [The Viceroy with the Countess of Elgin and Their Excellencies' Staff arrived at Rawal Pindi on the afternoon of Friday, the 16th November. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, the Commissioner of the Division, and the principal civil and military officers were present at the railway station to receive them.

On arriving at the residence of the Commissioner, the Viceroy was presented with an address of welcome from the Rawal Pindi Municipality, in which they expressed their sense of the honour done them by His Excellency's visit, the more so as the late Lord Elgin contemplated a similar visit before his death. They remarked that Rawal Pindi, though its population was small, had risen to be one of the largest military stations in India, and was annually growing in importance with the gradual increase of the troops and the construction of defence works. They had an abundant supply of pure water and were applying their surplus funds to drainage. His Excellency in replying said :—]

Gentlemen,—I must, in the first place, thank you for the welcome given to me in your address, and for the kindly allusions which it contains. I am glad to hear that you have recognised the advantages attaching to a supply of pure water, not only for your domestic and industrial affairs, but also as the surest prevention of the most serious and fatal forms of disease. I hope that the public spirit which has led you to carry out this work will enable you to obtain the advantages to be desired from the other improvements which you mention. It cannot be doubted that this is a town which is growing in importance, and that this growth is mainly due to the large body of troops which is stationed here. For this reason I am the more glad to learn that satisfactory relations exist between you and the authorities

Address from the Peshawar Municipality.

of the military part of Rawal Pindi. I trust that these good relations will not be in any way interrupted. I look forward with pleasure to visiting the surroundings of your town during the few days that I shall remain here, and I have no doubt that I shall carry away very pleasant recollections of my stay here, as well as of the cordial welcome which you have given us, and for which I again thank you.

ADDRESS FROM THE PESHAWAR MUNICIPALITY.

[The Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, arrived at 19th Nov. 1894. Peshawar on Monday morning, the 19th November, where he was received by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the Commissioner of Peshawar, and other local officials. In the afternoon His Excellency was presented with an address at the Gorkatri in the city by the members of the Municipality. The address contained expressions of loyalty and welcome, and of gratitude for the safety and liberty which the people enjoyed under British rule, and stated that, should the opportunity arise, they were ready to sacrifice their lives and property in defence of the British Government. His Excellency replied in the following terms:—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Peshawar,—
I have to return you my acknowledgments for the devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress which you have expressed in your address, and for the kindly welcome which you have extended to me as Her representative.

I think that it would be almost impossible to convey more adequately, and yet more concisely than you have done, the aim and object of British rule,—namely, the safety and liberty of those who live within its borders. And it is especially gratifying to find this impression of your opinion here in this historic town on the frontier, because I can assure you that the Government of India have not a more earnest wish than that those of our neighbours who dwell

Address from the Lahore Municipality.

upon our borders should recognise that this is our object, and that we have no desire or intention to infringe in any way the rights and privileges which justly pertain to them. I venture to think that here in this locality our neighbours across the frontier have found in our dealings with them that this is so, and that is one of the reasons why you in your position should be able to express your confidence in the future. It is above all things gratifying to us to know that we have in our friend and ally the Amir of Afghanistan, whose recent recovery from a severe illness has given us so much pleasure, one who will loyally observe the obligations and treaties which Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India have concluded with him.

Gentlemen,—I can assure you that it gives me great pleasure to visit this interesting city and to receive from you this kind manifestation of your regard, and I return you my warmest thanks.

ADDRESS FROM THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

26th Nov. 1894. [On Monday morning, the 26th November, the Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, arrived at Lahore. As the main object of His Excellency's visit was to hold a Durbar for the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of the Punjab who had assembled at Lahore, the reception was public and was marked by considerable military display and State ceremonial.

At the railway station to meet the Viceroy were His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and Staff, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and Staff, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India and Staff, the Honourables Lieutenant-General Brackenbury, Sir Antony MacDonnell, and Mr. Westland, Members of the Governor-General's Council, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir (with his brothers Raja Ram Singh and Raja Sir Amar Singh), and the Ruling Chiefs of the Punjab assembled in Lahore, the Lord Bishop of Lahore, the Judges of the Chief Court of the Punjab, the General Officer Commanding the Lahore District and Staff, and many other Civil and

Address from the Lahore Municipality.

Military Officers. A European guard of honour, and guards of honour of the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps, and of the North-Western Railway Volunteer Rifles, were drawn up outside the railway station. A Viceregal salute was fired as His Excellency alighted from the train.

After the reception on the platform, the Viceroy was presented with an address by the Municipal Committee. The address welcomed Lord and Lady Elgin to Lahore, and expressed the gratification of the Corporation at receiving the representative of a Power whose rule had been the source of countless blessings—a gratification enhanced by the fact that that representative bore the honoured name of one whose short yet able administration was remembered with feelings of grateful and affectionate esteem. They in the Punjab had special reason to be proud of the part the late Lord Elgin played in the suppression of the Sepoy rising of 1857. The memory of a statesman who died while doing his duty to his Sovereign, and to the millions committed to his care, would ever be treasured in the Punjab, where to the last he laboured, and where is his last resting-place. The boon of local self-government was largely prized by the masses of the community as betokening an increasing confidence in the governed, and as a pledge of mutual support and good-will. The address then referred to the progress accomplished in the matter of local institutions and works of public utility. Much still remained to be done in the matter of roads, drainage, and sanitation, but in view of the straitened condition of the finances they hesitated to appeal to Government for assistance. They prayed, however, that the interest of four and a half per cent. on their debt to Government on account of the water-supply, might be reduced by one per cent., in order that the money thus set free might be available for public improvements. The address concluded with expressions of loyalty, and confidence that Lord Elgin's government would be one of enhanced prosperity, contentment, and happiness for the people. His Excellency briefly thanked the deputation for their cordial welcome, intimating that a formal reply to their address would subsequently be sent. This reply was as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Lahore,—
I use no mere form of words when I thank you with all my heart for the kind and feeling terms in which you have welcomed Lady Elgin and myself to this ancient and historic city.

You have united in one record the act of my father's

Address from the Lahore Municipality.

remembrance of the noble deeds of your own fathers in that hour of crisis. You could in no more striking way have manifested your appreciation of that act. And for your kindness in this, and in your testimony to the spirit of devotion to duty which brought him to die here in the Punjab, I shall ever be most grateful.

I suppose there is no matter in which this Province has made greater advances since that time than in the growth of Municipal institutions. Thirty years ago they could hardly be said to exist, whereas now I am told that local self-government exists in one form or another in some 150 places in the Punjab. I am glad to learn that you have recognised that to undertake the management of your own affairs brings with it responsibilities and duties, and that you have determined to face them in a manner calculated to maintain the prestige of your city, by setting an example such as we may look for from the capital of a province.

Under all forms of government there comes a time when the necessity or desirability of improvements has to be weighed against their cost. That is the problem which the Government of India has at this moment to face, and I can entirely sympathise with you in the difficulties of your position in this respect. As to the particular question you raise with reference to the rate of interest on your loans, I must point out that this is a matter in which the Provincial Government is concerned, and it is impossible for me to forestall their opinion. But I think I ought to add that it is not reasonable to expect the State in India, or elsewhere, to provide money for Municipal loans at the same rate as that at which it can borrow for its own purposes. In England a margin is always required in these cases to safeguard the interests of the public, to whom of course the money that Government can control belongs. There may possibly be room for argument as to the actual rate charged, and though a bargain once made ought not to be departed from life, which first brought him to Indian soil, with the

Address from the Lahore Municipality.

without sufficient cause, still circumstances may occur when re-consideration of its terms is equitable. All that I can say at present is that it must be remembered that one successful financial operation does not make a normal rate of interest, and that it is the duty of Government, above all things in matters of finance, not to leap to premature conclusions. I wish I could give a more favourable reply, but, in the meantime, I have thought I could best serve your interests by drawing your attention to points which will certainly have to be considered if any proposal comes before the Government of India.

The representative of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress could wish for no better reception than you have given me. Your loyalty encourages me to hope that I shall have your support in my endeavours so to do my part in the government of this great Empire as to secure for you and your descendants the blessings which with you I believe may be attributed to the British Raj.

[The Viceroy then inspected the guards of honour, when a procession of carriages was formed, and His Excellency proceeded to the camp, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, the Governor of Bombay, the Commanders-in-Chief in India and of Madras, the Members of Council, and His Excellency's personal Staff and other officials. There was a full Viceregal escort of Royal Horse Artillery and Cavalry in addition to the Governor-General's Body-Guard, and the route to the camp, a distance of about 8 miles, was lined with British and Imperial Service troops, of which there were 20,000 concentrated at Lahore.]

RECEPTION OF RETIRED NATIVE OFFICERS.

26th Nov. 1894. [On the afternoon of the day of his arrival in Lahore, Lord Elgin received about 100 retired officers of the Native Army who had come to Lahore by special invitation to attend the Durbar. They were men of long service, and most of them wore the Distinguished Service Order and other decorations. They were introduced to the Viceroy by Colonel Sir Benjamin Bromehead, through whom His Excellency spoke the following words to them :—]

Sir Benjamin Bromehead,—I shall be obliged if you will express the gratification I feel at having the opportunity of meeting so many Native gentlemen who bear on their breasts the testimony that they have shared in many a gallant deed, and have helped to write many a page of history of which the British Army is most proud.

I wish to thank them for the honour they have done me, for I consider it to be an honour, in waiting upon me to-day and allowing me to make their acquaintance.

I trust they will long live to enjoy in their retirement the honours which I know the British soldier will always be ready to pay to his comrade in arms; and I doubt not that, in time to come, if need there be, their example will stimulate others of their countrymen to carry on the traditions which they inherit from the gentlemen now before me.

[The officers were much pleased with their reception, and with His Excellency's remarks, which they requested Sir Benjamin Bromehead to have translated into the vernacular and sent to them.]

DURBAR AT LAHORE.

[On Friday, the 30th November, at 11 a.m., His Excellency the 30th Nov. 1894. Viceroy held a Durbar at the Viceregal Camp for the reception of the Chiefs, Sardars and Native gentlemen of the Punjab assembled at Lahore. The Chiefs present at the Durbar were Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, G.C.S.I. (with Raja Ram Singh, C.B., and Raja Sir Amar Singh, K.C.S.I., his brothers); the Maharaja of Patiala (with Kunwar Ranbir Singh); the Nawab of Bahawalpur, G.C.S.I.; the Raja of Jhind; the Raja of Nabha, G.C.S.I.; the Raja of Kapurthala; the Raja of Sirmur (Nahan), G.C.S.I.; the Raja of Mandi; the Raja of Faridkot; the Raja of Chamba; and the Raja of Suket. There were also present some hundreds of durbaris from various parts of the Province and the Frontier. The Governor of Bombay, the next official in rank to the Viceroy, was seated on the dais with His Excellency, while occupying chairs below it were His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Hon. Lieutenant-General Brackenbury, the Hon. Mr. Westland, the Hon. Sir Antony MacDonnell, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, the personal Staffs of the Viceroy and the Commanders-in-Chief and Lieutenant-Governors, and many other civil and military officers. The Countess of Elgin and a number of ladies occupied chairs on the left of the dais, and the whole assembly numbered about 1,200. After the presentation of the Chiefs and leading durbaris, and the observance of the usual durbar formalities, the Viceroy delivered the following address :—]

Princes, Chiefs and Sardars,—It has, I think, been said that in our meeting here to-day we renew the practice of a former generation. It is not unnatural that men's minds should turn to the proposal to hold a durbar in this city that was made more than thirty years ago, but was not carried out, under circumstances deeply affecting myself, which I am touched to find remembered in many parts of the country. Though a generation has brought with it many changes, it has not, I think, affected what was, and is, the main consideration in summoning such an assembly—that it is good and proper, and advantageous, that those who are engaged in a common enterprise should come

Durbar at Lahore.

together and judge for themselves with what manner of men they are working. That, at all events, has been the practice of my predecessors who have constantly held durbars in the Punjab, and that is my object now. I have in the performance of my official duty been passing to and fro throughout your Province during the last six weeks ; and it seems to me that I need make no apology for asking you, who have so great a stake therein, to meet me here, that we may see each other face to face, and join hands over the great work in which we have, each one of us, our duties and responsibilities, of securing, so far as we can, the peace, prosperity, and progress of the Punjab. Let me say now in public what I have already had an opportunity of telling some of you in private,—that it is with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure that I find myself here surrounded by the loyal nobles and gentlemen of the Punjab, the representatives of those who, in that former generation of which I have spoken, came to our aid in the hour of peril ; of those who for many a year have shown themselves second to none in the ranks of our army by their loyalty, devotion, and courage ; of those who I am certain will, if need there be, stand with us shoulder to shoulder in defence of the Empire of our Sovereign, the Queen-Empress.

The time has not yet come when we can set aside as of no account the martial instincts of a race. Journeying round the frontier, and examining the forts erected for its defence at great cost, now well-nigh complete, I could not but think that there was only one thing more required to make our positions impregnable, and that was brave men to hold them. Here in the home of brave men we have seen yesterday the fine regiments of the Imperial Service Troops which the Princes and Chiefs of the Punjab have raised for the avowed purpose of testifying to the world their determination to make common cause with us in the defence of the Empire. It will be my pleasing duty to report to Her Majesty, knowing as I do how sincerely she appreciates such

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proofs of loyal devotion from the Princes and Chiefs of India, the gallant bearing of the troops that I have seen here. One word of caution I may add. We seek to be strong that we may be at peace. We have no ambition for conquest, no desire to extend our boundaries, no other wish than to cultivate friendship with our neighbours.

From a recent speech of the Prime Minister of England you will have learned that there is reason to hope that the time is approaching when all risk of the clashing of Russian and British interests in Asia will be obviated ; and I venture to say no more welcome intelligence could be conveyed to any lover of India. We have the great advantage of a firm friend and ally in the Ruler of Afghanistan. His Highness the Amir, whose recovery from his late illness we all hailed with pleasure, has honourably recognised the obligations of the Treaty of last year. The difficulties of an undefined frontier have already been removed in part, and will, I hope, soon be entirely swept away by the efforts of Afghan and British officers working on terms of the most complete amity. It is our aim and ambition so to regulate our relations with the brave undisciplined inhabitants of the hills on our western border as, at the same time, to ensure the peace and security for life and property upon which our treaty obligations and the dictates of humanity compel us to insist, and to leave to them the entire occupation of their country, the fullest measure of autonomy, and the most complete liberty in their internal affairs to follow their tribal customs. I need not say with how much regret I have seen clouds arise in Waziristan and darken the prospect. I trust they will roll away. I can safely assert, on behalf of the Government of India, that though they will not allow any obstacle to prevent their pushing on to their goal, and establishing, as they intend to do, peace and order on this part of your frontier, they will not deviate from the profession I have just made ; will not be turned aside by any desire for retaliation, but will maintain their

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set purpose of securing by peaceful means, if at all possible, one of the last links in the chain of friendly peoples.

Do not think that this is a policy we follow on the Punjab frontier alone. In the extreme West, and the extreme East, we are sending out Commissions with a view of determining with Persia and with France the sphere of our influence, and removing possible cause of quarrel. The conventions recently concluded with China provide for the settlement of the frontier of Burma and the promotion of trade by uniting the telegraphic systems of the two countries. The respect which we have shown for the conditions, especially in the matter of intercourse, which our neighbours consider essential for the maintenance of their independence, even though to our eyes they may seem unnecessary, has borne fruit in the convention for the purpose of opening up trade with Tibet, and in a thoroughly cordial understanding with our gallant allies in Nepal.

The fact is that this might well be termed the era of delimitation. As all over the world nations are settling disputed boundaries, so are we in India, in the hope that before many years have passed we may see our boundaries fixed from the Persian Gulf to the Malay Peninsula. It is a process which, if carried out successfully, must make for peace, and all here present will join with me in the earnest hope that the fair prospect which I have laid before you will remain unobscured. If this be so, how are we to use our opportunities? The history of the Punjab during the last thirty years gives no uncertain indication of what can be done to promote the general prosperity. I have examined some very remarkable figures in connection with this subject, but I cannot on this occasion go too deeply into detail. Speaking generally, the prosperity of a country is increased—

- (1) by making available the latent resources which it naturally possesses ;
- (2) by giving security to every man for his just share in

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the fruits of the earth, or the products of his industry ; and

- (3) by every step forward in civilisation, by the banishment of ignorance by means of education, of lawlessness and crime by firm and impartial administration of wise and just laws.

In considering the development of a country like this we naturally look first to the condition of agriculture. In the Punjab the area under cultivation has increased since 1863 from 16,800,000 acres to 26,700,000 acres. No one can doubt the importance of this increase, which improves the resources of the Province and the revenues of its Government. I invite attention to the increase in the cultivated area which, taking into consideration all possible deductions, may be stated at not less than 50 per cent., while the corresponding increase of revenue from 195 lakhs to 242 lakhs has not been more than about 35 per cent. This is some evidence that Government has not been unmindful of the interests of the people. I have with my own eyes seen instances of friendly feeling between the officers of Government and the people which encourage me to believe that the present members of the Punjab Commission appreciate and loyally endeavour to maintain the traditions of the policy which will ever be identified with the names of Henry and John Lawrence. And if we ask how the increase has been obtained, the answer is not far to seek. Irrigation is of the first importance to cultivation in the conditions that prevail in this country. There were but 900,000 acres irrigated in 1863, and there are 2,850,000 now. I cannot describe the means by which this great result has been attained ; but having visited the headworks of the Chenab Canal, which is destined in a few years, when it is in full operation, to convert the whole of a barren wilderness into a smiling garden, I cannot withhold a word of admiration for the care and thoroughness displayed, not only in the works themselves, but in the arrangements.

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ments made for the convenience of the cultivators. But if irrigation is the first thing needful, the true value of the crops it enables men to reap will not be realised if they cannot reach the markets where they must be sold. Roads, and specially metalled roads, have been constructed in all parts of the Province, but of course we look to the railways as the chief instrument of progress in this respect. It was, I believe, about 1863 that the first railway—that between Lahore and Amritsar, a distance of 32 miles,—was opened. The mileage now is over 2,000,—soon I hope to be further augmented—and your produce is conveyed far beyond your own limits, through the great ports of Bombay and Karachi, to compete in the markets of Europe on fair and favourable terms.

Time will not allow me to elaborate my argument. I think I have done something to show that the development of the resources of the Province and the interests of its cultivators have not been neglected. Nor do I think that any one will deny that, in the protection of the rights of individuals from violence or aggression, an advance has been made, and a greater feeling of security engendered both by prudent legislation and the establishment of courts of justice open to all. I hope it is being recognised that the law, while it is strong to repress disobedience to its authority, protects and assists those who choose to co-operate with it. I am glad to find that spirit of co-operation gaining ground in religious matters also, as typified in the arch erected jointly by Hindus and Mahomedans on the occasion of my visit to Amritsar. We welcome this spirit, not because the law is not strong enough to prevent disorder, or because we are less determined than our predecessors to administer it firmly and impartially, but rather because we feel that it provides the best chance of a fair, honourable, and permanent solution of difficulties that will be satisfactory to both sides.

* There is no use in shutting our eyes to the fact that

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there are still questions of great importance, affecting the conditions under which land is held and the position of cultivators, that demand a solution. There are evils which follow close in the train of an increasing population, and increasing demands for the application of capital to land, which, unless regulated and restrained, cripple the resources of men struggling to preserve their independence, and tend to bring into existence undesirable relations between owners and occupiers. Be assured the Government will approach these questions with sympathy as well as with caution—as I think I may claim that they have shown in their recent Resolution on Forest management, to which my honourable colleague Sir Antony MacDonnell has devoted so much time and attention. No Government can afford to view with indifference the embarrassment of a class of men who, here in the Punjab, have often proved the backbone of the State in peace and in war.

I should have wished to speak to you of the civilising results of education; but I have already detained you a long time, and I shall find another opportunity. I desire now to say a few words to connect the lessons of the past with the duties of the future. I wish to associate you, Princes and Chiefs, with the British Government in this matter. The British Government is proud to base its claim to the loyalty of the people of India on the justice, the purity, the benevolence of its administration. Depend upon it you can rely on no surer foundation. It used to be said that it was a fierce light which beat upon a throne; it beats now upon every act of every ruler—I might almost say of every officer of Government. I am no foe to criticism; and though I think that some of the criticism to which the Government of India is subjected is ill-judged, and perhaps on occasion ignorant and prejudiced, I have to tell you that, however you may despise dishonest or abusive language, you must not look to escape honest and fair criticism. The pursuit of pleasure

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instead of duty, the expenditure on self-indulgence of revenues that ought to be devoted to the public advantage, the neglect of opportunities which high position, ancient lineage, and great wealth can give, will not in these days escape observation, and will bring with them their own punishment in the public reprobation which, I am bound to say, they will deserve. I am glad to know that, amongst the Chiefs of the Punjab, there are those who have recognised their responsibilities, and who, in the management of their States, have shown an example from which any one of us might take a lesson ; and I trust the good seed they have sown may bear fruit.

Princes, Chief and Sardars,—I am not here to call you to deeds of arms ; but I do invite you to a contest—a contest in which you have not to overcome a single rival, but to match yourselves against the whole world. You start with many advantages. A country of marked fertility ; an energetic and industrious population ; personal prestige ; peace abroad, and, if you and your people will, at home. Will you fail to respond to the summons ? I at least have done my duty as the representative of the Queen-Empress in placing before you, as strongly as I can, the obligation which lies upon you, as Her Majesty's loyal subjects here in this portion of Her Empire she loves so well, to dare and to achieve the same triumphs of peace that elsewhere have characterised and immortalised her glorious reign.

[At the conclusion of the speech a translation of it was read in Urdu. The Viceroy then presented attar and pan to the Ruling Chiefs, who were conducted to the dais, and this ceremony was continued by the Foreign Secretary and other officials to minor Chiefs and all those in attendance. The Durbar then closed.]

HIGHLAND BRIGADE DINNER, LAHORE.

[On Friday evening, the 30th November, the officers of the Highland 30th Nov. 1894 Brigade (consisting of the three Highland Regiments present at Lahore) entertained the Viceroy at Dinner in the Montgomery Hall in order to celebrate St. Andrew's Day. There was a large gathering of representatives of the kilted corps, and among the guests were the Commander-in-Chief, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, General Lord Frankfort, Generals Brackenbury, Elles, Galbraith, and others. Colonel Gildea, Gordon Highlanders, briefly proposed the Viceroy's health. The Highland Brigade, he said, thanked His Excellency for the honour he had conferred upon them by his presence at their St. Andrew's Dinner. They hoped that success might attend his period of office as the representative of our beloved Sovereign the Queen-Empress. (*Cheers.*) The Brigade welcomed him as a Scotsman, and wished to join with the guests present in drinking to His Excellency's health with Highland honours. The toast was enthusiastically received.

His Excellency the Viceroy, who on rising to reply was received with loud and continued cheering, spoke as follows:—]

Colonel Gildea, Officers of the Highland Brigade, and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you very much for the kind way in which you have drunk my health. I have to make one further request upon your kindness, and that is that you will allow me to respond to this toast in the same brotherly fashion in which it has been proposed. (*Cheers.*)

I am well aware that I owe the privilege of being thus selected from the many distinguished and gallant Scotchmen present at this table to the fact of Her Majesty the Queen having been pleased to appoint me to the office which I have now the honour to hold. I am also aware that some of my predecessors have taken advantage of the St. Andrew's Dinner to make official utterances. I do not know whether they made them after a Durbar (*laughter*), but if they did I can only say that I am filled with boundless admiration. (*Cheers and laughter.*) For myself at

Highland Brigade Dinner, Lahore.

this moment, I confess to an intense abhorrence of business after dinner, with which I hope you will sympathise (*hear, hear, and cheers*), and which I can assure you if it could be carried out in the ordinary routine of a Viceroy's life might tend to his longevity. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*) Gentlemen, I shall therefore simply thank you as brother Scots unreservedly. (*Cheers.*) I should wish to say with what pleasure I meet the Highland Brigade. I suppose it is not every day that we see such splendid troops as we saw gathered together yesterday (*hear, hear, and cheers*), but I am sure that, to most of us around this table, the Highland Brigade especially warmed our inmost hearts, and particularly perhaps here in India, if it be true, as I believe it is, that since the Mutiny three Highland Regiments have not been brought together. (*Loud cheers.*) I wish to express my thanks to the Commander-in-Chief, to whom we owe the great pleasure that this Review has given us. (*Cheers.*) For myself I cannot help thinking that His Excellency has taken advantage of the many hours that we have passed together during the last few months to use his judgment of character to fathom my inmost aspirations.

Scotchmen are found in every part of the world, and speaking here, I suppose I may safely say that the world would be very much the worse if it did not so find them. (*Loud cheers.*) Scotchmen are found in every part of the world, because they have a duty there to do, and it is not for me to say that in the performance of a duty you cannot find pleasure as well as honour. But I confess that I should have a suspicion of a Scotchman if I thought that, when he crossed the Tweed, on his journey out, he had not some feeling, unexpressed, perhaps unconscious, that if he had his own way, he would turn back again. (*Cheers and laughter.*)

Gentlemen,—I do not think I need say more to explain the reason why Scotchmen in all parts of the world are accustomed to meet together on occasions like St. Andrew's

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Day. I think perhaps it is best summed up in the words of the song :—

“ On whatever sod I kneel,
Heaven knows I ever feel
For the honour and the weal
Of my ain countree.”

[His Excellency resumed his seat amid loud and enthusiastic cheers, which continued for some moments. The toast of the Army, coupled with the name of the Commander-in-Chief, was then proposed by Colonel H. G. Grant, Seaforth Highlanders, to which His Excellency replied.]

CONVOCATION OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

[On Saturday, the 1st December, at 12 noon, the annual Convocation 1st Dec 1894. of the Punjab University took place, the Viceroy presiding as Patron. In accordance with a previous Resolution of the Senate, the degree of Doctor of Literature was conferred upon His Excellency, *honoris causa*, by the Chancellor, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. The Maharaja of Kashmir, with his two brothers, and several of the Punjab Chiefs, attended, and His Excellency Lord Harris, the Earl of Onslow, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. Mr. Rattigan, the Vice-Chancellor, spoke at some length in explaining the Resolution of the Senate. At the close of the proceedings, the Viceroy addressed the Convocation as follows :—]

Mr. Chancellor,—I wish to express my acknowledgments to the Senate of the Punjab University for the honour which they have conferred upon me to-day, and to the Vice-Chancellor for the very impressive manner in which he explained the Resolution. I cannot help a feeling that I am somewhat of an impostor at this moment. Those who have, besides myself, received degrees from the hands of the Chancellor to-day have, as we have been told, received them after examination. I think there is a custom in some universities to award certain degrees on the preparation of a thesis, but the preparation of a thesis means long study and application, and if I am now called upon to present my thesis to this University, I have only to say that since they did me the

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honour to communicate their intention, my time has chiefly been spent in the railway train, and my opportunities of study have been very much curtailed by the necessity of examining into much of that interesting country of which you are so proud—the Punjab. I therefore cannot attempt to enter into any formulated opinion, particularly upon matters that affect you specially in this locality, and I shall frankly appeal to your consideration to allow me, in the few words which I shall address to you, to speak in a more general manner. There is only one exception that I should like to make. Yesterday I had an opportunity of saying something of the progress which has been witnessed in the Punjab in recent years. I should like, with your permission, to mention now what I have noticed of the progress in education, and which I think shows equally remarkable results. I find that, in 1862, there were in the Punjab 1,982 schools, attended by 42,192 pupils; of these schools, 52 were for females, and the attendance in them was 1,312. That was the whole school provision for the Punjab, there being apparently no private institutions in existence at that time. At present I find that there are 2,408 public institutions, comprising 8 Arts colleges, 3 of which teach up to the degree standard; 56 High schools, 215 Middle schools, and 1,762 Primary schools, all for males; and 6 High schools, 21 Middle schools, and 325 Primary schools for females. In addition to the above there are 6,836 private schools in the Province, and the total school attendance is now 250,000. I venture to think that that is a very substantial addition to the educational resources of the Province in the last thirty years. But besides that, I must not omit to mention that this University itself has had its origin during that period. And though, for reasons which I have already stated, I do not propose to enter into any details concerning it, I am glad to notice from the last report that the numbers presented for examination reached over 2,300, and that they show an increase in almost every examination.

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Now, Mr. Chancellor, I know there are some who say that there are two sides to this question, and that there are some dangers attaching to the spread of education, and especially of higher education. I do not think that I can fairly be accused of taking anything else than a practical view of politics, but I must confess that, on this particular subject, I do entertain what I should like to call a philosophical—perhaps some may call it a sentimental—objection to this theory. It appears to me that all men, whether they are rich or poor, have the same faculties given to them by their Creator, that in all of them, in a greater or less degree, there are capacities for development, and that the development of the higher faculties must be carried out by means of education, and therefore I have never, either here or elsewhere, been able to accept the view that I could put my hand to anything which would deny, or seem to deny, to the poor man the opportunity of that development of his faculties which I think he ought to have. (*Applause.*) I should lay down as a general principle that education is good; but, at the same time, I am free to admit that in this, as in almost every other matter, there are good and bad ways of carrying out a general principle. It is no doubt difficult to defend an educational process which unfits a man for the only work which is open to him, and which he is bound to undertake in order to obtain a maintenance. The difficulty, it seems to me, is to combine the higher object, namely, the development of the higher faculties of man, with the lower object of the due provision for his necessities. Now, I know there are some who would reply to this question that at any rate we ought to turn our attention to technical education. I have always distrusted this assertion when made too positively, and I should strongly advise anyone who hears a positive assertion of this kind to ask for a definition. I venture to think that, in nine cases out of ten, the definition you will receive will be of the vaguest possible description, and I also think that a certain, perhaps a

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large, proportion of the remaining tenth will boldly advocate, as their solution of the matter, the use of tools, or of implements of handicraft, as the best method of educating a man. Now, for my part I consider that this might be called instruction but not education. It is the instruction of the eye and the hand, but not the education of the brain, and therefore, in my view, it infringes the general principle which I have ventured to lay down. At the same time I am free to admit that instruction in handicrafts is a most useful process, and I should gladly see it combined with intellectual education ; but the difficulty is to carry out that combination, and sometimes we even find that empirical knowledge is in advance of the scientific. I should like to give you an example from some papers that came under my observation a short time ago. You, I have no doubt, are aware, in this Province, which depends so largely on agriculture, that one of the greatest dangers to crops arises from the pest of insects. It so happened that an officer of Government one day—I think it was in the Punjab—saw a cultivator spreading the leaves of a certain plant over his plot of ground. The officer made some inquiries and was told that this was done to keep down insect life. It would take too long to give you the tests which were applied in this case, but I am glad to say the result is that, most probably, a valuable discovery has been made, and an insecticide found which may save valuable crops from the ravages of insects. Now, this illustration leads up to the position which I wish to occupy, namely, that technical education, like every other form of education, has its higher and its lower side, and that that must be proportioned to the cultivation of the intellect of the man who is studying. In my view it is absurd to treat technical as separated from what, for want of a better term, is called higher education, and you will observe that, in the case which I have just mentioned to you, the officer to whose credit we put this discovery, not only required high scienti-

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fic knowledge, chemical research, and so on, but also trained powers of observation and of inference,—that is to say, of intellectual culture. Mr. Chancellor, the problem is how to give the best education suitable to general wants, and that problem has not yet been solved, and will tax many a statesman. But I would venture to say a word here with regard to a remedy which I have seen suggested and on which I have an opinion. It has been represented that the poverty of candidates presenting themselves, and still more the poverty of the prospects which open to them hereafter, lay upon them a very excessive strain in the competition for degrees. I should wish to say that I have the most entire sympathy with the greater exertions which the poor man must make in order to obtain the same results which come more easily to his richer neighbour. I have no doubt it is known to many here that we in Scotland have prided ourselves for many a year on the efforts made by the poorer members of the community to obtain the distinction of a University degree. (*Applause.*) But with regard to the remedy that the competition should be made easier, I wish to point out that in reality this would not diminish but increase the evil. We know in India something of the evils which arise from a depreciated standard of value, and I cannot imagine anything more disastrous to the cause of education in India than a depreciated standard of education. (*Applause.*) No doubt the immediate aim of the educationist must vary according to circumstances, and it is quite right to carry your work no higher than is suitable for the time and place. But if we value the credit of our University, I think we should not pretend to do what we do not (*applause*), and that our study and object should be to approach as nearly as we can the standards of the best universities of the world. (*Applause.*) Depend upon it, if this is not done, the first to suffer will be those in whose favour the relaxation is made, as anyone will appreciate who remembers how the degrees which, formerly at any

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rate, could be (I think I may call it) purchased in Europe, became merely a bye-word and a reproach. No doubt, in the solution of this great question, this distinguished University will bear its part. I have to thank you for admitting me to its ranks as a graduate in order that I may from that position take an interest and a share in the work, and I venture with all my heart to wish you God-speed. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

5th Dec, 1894. [Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin arrived at Delhi on Wednesday morning, the 5th December, and were received at the railway station by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, the Commissioner of the Division, and by the principal civil and military officers. A deputation of the Municipal Committee were present and presented an address of welcome, in which they expressed the sense of honour and joy which they felt at welcoming the Viceroy officially as the representative of the Queen-Empress, and personally as the son of not the least of former Viceroys. The importance of Delhi as a political centre, they remarked, was recognised by the Government of India on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage, and it would be rash to prophesy that it might not yet become the capital of British India and the seat of the British Government in the person of the Viceroy. Their only regret was that there was no permanent place of residence for Her Majesty's representative among them, and they would hail with joy an announcement that such a residence was in the near contemplation of the Government of India.]

In order to enable them to extend the water-supply scheme to the suburbs, they requested a reduction of interest on their loan from Government from four to three and a half per cent., particularly as Government had been able to successfully convert its loans to the latter figure, and they presumed that it was not the desire of Government to derive profit from its advances to local bodies. They also requested sanction to measures being taken, either by Government or the Municipality, for the diversion of the Jumna into its old channel under the city walls. Delhi, they explained, was one of the healthiest cities of the plains, except for its fever, which was decimating the inhabitants and was due to malaria from the bank of the river, which, if diverted as suggested, would reduce fever to a minimum. They had heard with

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pleasure that the Delhi-Bhatinda-Bahawulpur Railway had been sanctioned. When this and the line to Muttra were completed, Delhi would be the great railway centre of India and the terminus of six railway systems, and the Committee submitted that its growing importance entitled it in a special degree to the Viceroy's favourable consideration.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Delhi,—I desire to express my gratitude for the kind welcome you have given to me. It is gratifying both personally in respect of the reasons which you have alleged for the interest you are good enough to take in me, and also officially in virtue of the office I hold. It is fitting and proper that the representative of the Queen-Empress should receive such a welcome from the Imperial City of Delhi, where, as you remind me, her Imperial title was proclaimed; and I feel certain that no Viceroy will approach your walls without a full consciousness of your importance.

Gentlemen,—I agree with you that nothing can be more rash than to prophesy what the future will bring forth. The Government of India is a vast and complex machine, and no one can interfere with the constitution of its various parts except with extreme caution. The changes which steam and electricity have been the great instruments in effecting have not yet done away with the necessity of a Viceroy residing permanently where the business of Government is transacted, and I am afraid I am not in a position to say that there is any immediate prospect of another annual migration of the apparatus of Government. Again, I have already had to point out to your sister city, Lahore, that it is rash to prophesy as to the future of finance from the results of a single operation. I do not think I need repeat here all that I said at Lahore on the subject of municipal loans. I desire very respectfully to ask your attention to the points I then mentioned, and for the rest I must, I think, wait till I have received the opinion of the Punjab Government.

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Gentlemen,—In any question affecting the health of your community you may rely on my cordial sympathy. But you will not expect me to enter upon any discussion of what is required to amend local conditions. I am here as a stranger, and even if it were proper for me to interfere, it would again be more than rash for me to say anything about the proper course of a river which I have not seen. But, so far as the business is concerned, there is, no doubt, for it a proper channel, and if it follows that and reaches me, my visit here now may enable me to judge more fairly of the merits.

There is one matter mentioned in your address in which I am almost inclined to neglect your prudent advice and to prophesy as to the future. But the fact is that Delhi is already a great railway centre, and I entertain very little doubt that it will become an even more important one. You are well aware that, in these days, no Government can carry out all the projects which it recognises as beneficial, and therefore it is impossible to name a time when the railway system in India will reach anything like its full development; but I do not hesitate to say that to my mind there is no more important object before the Government of India, and you cannot fail to participate in any approach to its realisation. In the meantime, I have been exceedingly glad to hear that various industries are springing up in Delhi. They will not only promote the general prosperity of your city, but will help to justify the railway extension which you desire.

Gentlemen,—I thank you again for the kind welcome which you have extended to Lady Elgin and myself and for the loyalty expressed in your address.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

[At 11 A.M. on Monday, the 24th December 1894, the Viceroy 24th Dec. 1894. presided at the opening of the first Medical Congress held in India. The ceremony took place in the theatre of St. Xavier's College in which were assembled about 700 people, including delegates to the Congress, European and Native, several ladies, and the general public. The stage was reserved for the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, the President of the Congress, Dr. R. Harvey, and for the more distinguished visitors and members of the Reception Committee. Lord Elgin on arrival was received at the entrance by the President and Central Committee, and conducted in procession to his seat on the dais.

The Viceroy, on rising to open the proceedings, was cordially received. His Excellency addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Mr. President, your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to express my acknowledgments to the Committee for the invitation they have given me to be present on this occasion. I esteem it a privilege that it has fallen to my lot to take part in the opening ceremony of the first Medical Congress in this city, and to extend, as I think I am entitled to do, on behalf of the Government of India, a welcome to the gentlemen who have journeyed, some of them, great distances to attend it. I do not know how it happens that this is the first Indian Medical Conference; but I am sure that I am only speaking the sentiments of all present when I express the hope that it will have a most successful session. (*Cheers.*) The claims of the Medical Profession on our regard call for no exposition. They have been recognised in every country and in every language. No effort of oratory is requisite to describe the noble profession whose chief aim is the relief of human suffering, and which offers opportunities to those who follow it for the exercise of some of the highest qualities of which our nature is capable—the prompt decision, the steadiness of purpose, the courageous, or, if need be, the heroic devotion to duty which we sometimes especially claim for man, the intuitive instinct, the quick and

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ready sympathy, the tender care which we gladly confess finds its highest examples in woman. (*Cheers.*) And, Mr. President, if I need not dilate on the reasons for the welcome which I offer you, still less is it my duty to describe the purpose for which you have convened this meeting. We shall hear from you, Sir, the necessary explanations of the programme which lies before the Congress. But I should like to be allowed to say why I think the Government cannot be indifferent to your proceedings. I imagine that no one will deny that one of the first duties of any organised Government is to consider how the health of those living within its jurisdiction can be improved or maintained. (*Cheers.*) As it appears to me, there are two distinct lines on which to approach this question—we may either pursue an inquiry into the nature of the diseases which specially affect the country, or we may turn our attention rather to the habits and mode of life of the people in relation to the prevalence of disease. It is obvious that on both sides great differences will arise according to varying circumstances of time and place. The diseases of the tropics, or, at any rate, the conditions under which we are attacked by them, are not the same as those of the temperate zone. The customs of the East are not those of Europe, and it cannot, I think, but be advantageous that the circumstances which affect us in India should be considered here in India. I do not mean, of course, that no general consideration is now given to these questions. The Government of India and the Local Governments have each their officers who are charged with this duty. I have just had placed in my hands the Report for 1893 of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. It extends, with its appendices, to over 400 folio pages, and contains ample evidence that the subject of public health is regarded by the Government as of the first importance. (*Cheers.*) There are different spheres of action. The Government of India must deal chiefly with general prin-

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ciples; the Local Governments and Departments with the manner of the application of these principles in the several localities. But I think it would not be difficult to show that the British Government in India has recognised its responsibilities, and has done what circumstances permitted in this matter. (*Cheers.*)

I venture to hope that we may, all of us, derive advantage from the proceedings of this Congress. If I understand your object aright, you will have assembled here men who have had the opportunity of studying on the spot the diseases of the people of India, and men who have studied the nature of specific diseases in a manner not compatible with the prosecution of an ordinary practice. Scientific discoveries, like many other discoveries, sometimes come upon us, like a thief in the night, suddenly and unexpectedly, but they are more often the outcome of long and patient investigation and the impartial consideration of every point; and we are justified in anticipating advantage to the cause of the scientific investigation of disease from the free interchange of opinion. And if this is true of inquiries into the nature of diseases, it is even more so of the other branch of the subject to which I have referred,—that is, the connection of the habits and customs of the people with the subject of public health. It is here that the non-professional student of the subject feels more at liberty to intrude; and indeed I cannot deny that occasionally a certain amount of jealousy of scientific sanitation is found amongst those who have to deal practically with the questions which arise. I need not say that I have no sympathy myself with that jealousy (*cheers*); but I must honestly add that I think it sometimes finds an excuse—I will not say a justification—when theories are ridden too hard. I hold very strongly that in sanitary matters, as in many others, the best way to secure real progress is to begin by forming a public opinion in its favour, and that action in advance of, or in opposition to, public opinion is

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often apt to retard, rather than promote, the cause we have at heart. (*Cheers.*)

I am glad to think that there are some signs of the growth of public opinion in India on sanitary questions. I have, during the last two months, met a large number of representatives of Municipal Committees and other local bodies, and I find stress is always laid on what they have done, or propose to do, in the matter of water-supply and the like. You may say they represent only the larger places, but are you quite sure that your public opinion at home has gone much further? If I did not trespass too long on your time, I am inclined to think that I could give some direct evidence from my own experience bearing on that point; and there is one other incident of my travels that bears on this subject—which I should like to mention. I was walking one day through a village in a remote district. The ruins that lay about it bore testimony to greater importance in days gone by. There was, I was informed, no pretence of any sanitary arrangement, or water-supply, and the people, not unnaturally, suffered severely at certain seasons from fever. But I was struck forcibly by the fact that, in house after house which I passed, the doorway and its surroundings were scrupulously clean. My mind reverted to many an instance where the contrast was not favourable to Western civilisation. (*Cheers.*)

I know the danger of arguing from a singular instance, but I can only use the opportunities I possess, and all I wish to argue from this little experience of mine is the necessity of tolerance. We hear a good deal of the opposition to, and prejudice against, reform arising from custom. I should like to seek for, and gladly acknowledge, the encouragement which, if my example is worth anything, I believe, can also be found therein. (*Cheers.*) Some things, of course, we must insist upon. But where there is a fair question of expediency,—where the difficulty comes from religious feeling, local customs, financial pressure, or even

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personal prejudice,—I believe there is only one safe rule which I ventured to define to a friend who once asked my advice in a case of the kind as “unlimited patience.” (*Cheers.*) There can be no surer test of the sincerity of a man’s belief in his cause than the good-humoured acceptance of any reverse in the struggle on the ground that it can only be temporary.

Mr. President,—I think I have said enough to testify not only an official but a personal interest in the work that is before you. (*Cheers.*) It is an interest which I should feel under any circumstances, but which here, in India, has the additional attraction that it appeals to one apart from all differences of class, or creed, or nationality. (*Cheers.*) That is the spirit in which the great work identified with the name of Lady Dufferin was undertaken—the task of providing medical aid for the women of India (*cheers*) ; and I am requested by the Lady President of the Fund to take this opportunity of conveying her thanks to the numerous members of the Medical Profession who have given so much assistance to the various Committees. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. President,—That is the spirit in which I trust sanitary reforms will be prosecuted in India, and in which this Congress will show its readiness to support the efforts of the Government of India. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

[Surgeon-Colonel Harvey, the President, then addressed the assembly at some length on the past, present, and future of Medical Science in India, and the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding, which His Excellency briefly acknowledged.]

THE COTTON DUTIES BILL.

27th Dec. 1894. [A discussion on the Bill "to provide for the Imposition and Levy of certain duties on Cotton Goods" took place in the Legislative Council on Thursday, the 27th December. The Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, was first passed into law, after which the Honourable Mr. Westland presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Cotton Duties Bill. The rules of the Council were suspended to admit of the Report being taken into consideration, and on Mr. Westland's moving that this be done, the Honourable Mr. Fazulbhai Vishram brought forward an amendment to section 5 of the Bill, the object of which was to raise the limit exempting certain counts of yarns from taxation. Mr. Vishram spoke at some length on the amendment, and was followed by Sir Alexander Miller, Sir Griffith Evans, Babu Mohini Mohun Roy, Prince Jehan Kedar, Mr. Chitnavis, the Maharaja of Durbhanga, Mr. Playfair, Mr. Mehta, Mr. Stevens, Sir A. MacDonnell, Mr. Westland, General Brackenbury, the Lieutenant-Governor, and His Excellency the President. The amendment was put to the vote and negatived, and the Bill was subsequently passed into law. His Excellency the President in closing the debate spoke as follows :—]

I have not intervened in the discussions on this Bill, for I felt certain that, in the hands of my honourable colleague, the case of the Government would be placed before the Council in a manner that would not only justify the necessity of the course we thought it right to pursue, but would demonstrate our desire to deal in a fair and considerate spirit with the interests involved. But before I put the question I desire to say a very few words

It is alleged in certain quarters—and I am not quite sure that there have not been echoes within this room—that, in consenting to introduce this Bill in its present form, the Government has made a cowardly surrender, and has given way to a pressure which, if not unconstitutional, is, at any rate, unusual and oppressive.

I wish to take exception to any such statement, and I am prepared to show that the Government of India has maintained, and intends to maintain, firmly, and without wavering, a consistent policy in this matter. So far as the individual action of my colleagues and myself is concerned, Sir Henry Brackenbury, in the discussions on the last

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Tariff Bill, and again to-day, has said that we are bound to obey the orders given by the proper and constitutional authority. But, for my part, I do not think that exhausts the question. It is claimed that members must be free to speak and vote in this Council for the measure they honestly think best. I can accept that proposition only with the qualification that they duly recognise the responsibility under which they exercise their rights in this Council. Only in an entirely irresponsible body can members act entirely according as their inclination leads them. In every legislative body a man must sit, unless he has an hereditary right, by what in modern parlance is called a mandate, and that mandate must be given by some authority. I need not remind you that in Parliament a man is not free to act exactly as he pleases ; he is distinctly subject to the mandate he has received from his constituents ; and practice has shown that even this is not sufficient, but that to make Parliamentary government effective it has been necessary to introduce party management, and the bonds of party, in the present day, certainly show no sign of being relaxed. Here we have no election, and I am glad to say no party, but every man who sits here sits by the authority and sanction of Parliament ; and to say that he can refuse to obey the decisions of Parliament would be absurd. But that is not all. Parliament has provided for the government of the Indian Empire. The British Raj can be provided for in no other way. Parliament has allotted his proper place to the Viceroy, as the head of the Executive in India, and it has given him a Council for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations which cannot have powers in which he does not share. But the Viceroy admittedly is not invested with supreme authority. That, as I understand it, is by distinct enactment entrusted to the Secretary of State and his Council ; and to speak of this Council as Supreme—if that means that it has independent and unfettered authority—is to say what is not the fact.

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I speak with some deference after what fell from the Honourable Sir Griffith Evans ; but, with all respect for his legal authority, I think that he is not correct in the view he took that a Member of this Council is unfettered in the vote he gives here, or that he could "hand over his responsibility" to the Secretary of State. I am inclined to think that the Honourable Mr. Mehta took a more correct view of the matter when he said that he would "leave the responsibility" with the Secretary of State, because the responsibility which the Secretary of State would exercise would be the responsibility which belongs to him.

I feel most strongly—as I believe every man who has had even the smallest share in the administration of the affairs of this Empire must feel—the paramount importance of maintaining the credit of the British rule for justice and impartiality; and I have seen, with much regret, some attempts to divert the discussion of this and other matters into an attack on the motives which are supposed to actuate certain decisions. I, for my part, do not envy the responsibility of the man who makes that sort of insinuation. I undertake to say that it is absolutely necessary that the gauging of Parliamentary opinion should be done in England, and cannot be done from here. The Secretary of State interprets to us the will of Parliament, to which he is directly responsible for the proper performance of his duty ; and I protest against the supposition that any man of any party taking upon himself the great office of Secretary of State for India is so unworthy of the tradition of British statesmen that he does not do his utmost to bring to the discharge of his responsible duties a spirit of impartiality and fairness ; and, if that is so, I also protest against our—I will not say obedience to, but rather acceptance of, his decisions being anything less than ungrudging.

Now let me for a moment apply the principles I am advocating to the history of the measure now under consideration. Last March the Secretary of State decided,

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and we accepted the position, that the time had not come when Parliament would sanction the imposition of the duties on cotton. But he qualified that decision in terms I was authorised to communicate from this chair, which seemed to me then, and seem still, to ensure fair treatment to any demand our emergencies might compel us to make. One thing, however, in my opinion, was requisite, and that was that the Government of India should in the interval pursue a firm and consistent financial policy. We have done so; we should not have done so had we followed the counsel we received from some irresponsible advisers. What is the result? The Secretary of State has told us the grounds on which, and the conditions under which, he can undertake the responsibility (a very great responsibility) of justifying before Parliament the policy which we propose. Again, he has done so in terms that show his desire to arrive at a fair and impartial conclusion, because on the one point on which an amendment is moved to-day—a point on which admittedly there is a difference of opinion—he has consented to such a wording of the Bill as provides for the ultimate decision being based on full and sufficient information.

The Honourable Sir Griffith Evans took the view that no evidence was furnished from England; but I would remind the Honourable Member that the Secretary of State has in his hands the evidence which was furnished from India, and he has the evidence which he has obtained himself, and that it is on a comparison of these two branches of evidence that he has come to the conclusion that he must insist upon the Bill being framed as it is now proposed. I would also venture to point out that it seems to be argued in this matter as if the lowering of the line to 20 was putting an additional restriction upon India. I wish to remind you that the condition laid down for the imposition of the cotton duties at all was this, that there should be no element of protection, and that was interpreted to mean

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that there should be a countervailing excise. That principle being accepted, the natural meaning of a countervailing duty would be that the excise should be co-extensive with the import duty; the exemption of the lower counts at all is a concession on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and they must decide the question how much they ought to concede in that matter.

Now, I cannot conceive a greater calamity than this Council voting against this Bill, or adopting an amendment which would be fatal to it. Far be it from me to deny that it is within the competence of the Council to throw out any measure. It would be its duty so to act if the public weal was endangered. But, as I have endeavoured to point out, the vote of this Council, and, as I maintain, of every individual member of it, is given under the responsibility of doing nothing to dislocate the complicated machinery by which this great Empire is governed; and I agree with the Honourable Sir Henry Brackenbury that if this Council does adopt this amendment, it will take upon its shoulders the responsibility of losing this Bill, and of losing perhaps altogether the financial resources which we so much need. So far as the Government of India is concerned, it has in this case, and will in any other case, fully and fairly consider, and forward for consideration, the views which prevail in India, which it is their duty to make themselves acquainted with; but the Government of India do not now, and I am sure will never shrink from putting before this Council proposals on which, after due conference, a decision has been arrived at in the proper and constitutional form, and from asking the Council, as we do now, to pass the necessary legislation.

CANTONMENTS ACT, 1889, AMENDMENT BILL.

[In the Legislative Council held on Thursday, the 24th January, a 24th Jan. 1895. discussion took place on the Cantonments Act Amendment Bill, on the motion of Sir Alexander Miller that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. His Excellency the President closed the discussion as follows :—]

I understand that there is no opposition to the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, and, therefore, after the full discussion which has taken place I do not think that I need interpose with regard to the merits of the Bill. Further, as I cannot but think that the introduction of a discussion of great, and somewhat abstruse, constitutional questions as subsidiary to a measure which in itself excites strong feelings is somewhat inconvenient, and as I myself do not hold the appointment of Professor of Constitutional Law in this Council, I should have said nothing to-day had it not been for the persistent, and I think I may say somewhat unfair, use which has been made of the few remarks which I thought it necessary to offer in the discussion of the Tariff Bill. I know that it is somewhat tempting to take notice of a particular phrase, because it often avoids, or seems to avoid, the necessity of reading tiresome speeches, but it is a dangerous method of arriving at an exact knowledge of the truth. I suppose, for instance, that it would be impossible to deny that the "Diary of Toby, M.P.," is based on incidents that occur. All that I have to say at present is that when I find headings such as "Legislation by Mandate" made applicable to me in the sense that I have used words impugning the rights and privileges and independence of this Council, I must refer to the remarks I made on that occasion. I said :—"Far be it from me to deny that it is within the competence of the Council to throw out any measure. It would be its duty so to act if the public weal was endangered. But, as I have endeavoured to point out, the vote of this Council, and, as I maintain, of every individual member of it, is

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given under the responsibility of doing nothing to dislocate the complicated machinery by which this great Empire is governed."

I see no reason to withdraw any of the words which I used on the occasion to which I refer, but I claim that these words should be read with the context. I had, as I have said, no intention of delivering a lecture on a constitutional point. What I desired to do, and what I think still was not unsuitable for me to do, was to call attention, in the words of the Honourable Sir Griffith Evans, to the full legislative responsibility which he stated to-day to be the fit and proper corollary of the full legislative authority which he claims. I wish to assure Honourable Members that I am too proud of being allowed to sit here as a Member of this Council not to wish to maintain its credit and prestige in every possible way that it is open to me, and I believe that I do so most effectually by not ignoring the whole of the conditions under which we sit here.

[The motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee was agreed to.]

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE MARTINIÈRE
COLLEGE.

[The Viceroy presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the 25th Jan. 1895. pupils of the Martinière College on Friday afternoon, the 25th January. A number of visitors, including the Bishop of Calcutta, Sir James Westland, Sir Alexander Miller, etc., were present. Mr. Arden Wood, the Principal, read the Report for the year, after which some recitations from Latin Authors were given by the boys.

His Excellency then addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Mr. Principal, Boys of the Martinière, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We pass now, I am afraid, from the words of those who have made their mark of old in the literature of the world to a few and simple words from one whom you see for the first time. I should like to say that I come here with great pleasure to renew the traditions of those of my illustrious predecessors who have visited this institution. (*Applause.*) And I do so with all the more pleasure that I had an opportunity in the spring of seeing the sister institution at Lucknow which owes its foundation to the same generous founder.

Mr. Principal, I hope that I am right in regarding the interesting Report which you have laid before us to-day as expressing, on the whole, your satisfaction with the results which have been attained. I observe, with regard to the numbers you have had, that, at any rate, if there are differences in the constitution of them, you do, on the whole, maintain a very remarkable average, because I find you have stated that the strength of the School for 40 years has averaged 166, for the last ten years 167, and that, for the present year, the number on the roll is 163. I think that that is a satisfactory basis to work upon, because nothing can, I imagine, be more disheartening to a Master than to find his numbers liable to sudden variation. I note, of course, the decrease which you have mentioned in your foundationers, and the cause which you have alleged for it, and I am sorry that, even with the support of my Honourable friend who is responsible for the finances of India, I cannot

Distribution of Prizes at the Martiniere College.

give you much consolation with regard to the state of the rupee. At all events I think this may be said that the importance of schools of this kind is not diminished by the unfortunate state of our currency, because I believe that many now find it necessary to take advantage of the opportunities open to them in India which they might not otherwise have had occasion to use.

Mr. Principal, with regard to the education, which is the most important part of your work, I take it that you endorse the examiners' reports, which you state are, on the whole, very satisfactory, and I hope we may conclude that the prizes which I have had the pleasure of distributing to the boys this afternoon do represent a good year's work, and that they have been thoroughly and honestly earned.

I notice that this School is carried on on what we are accustomed to call "the modern side." I have no doubt that you, *Mr. Principal*, who are a student of the same University as myself, see perhaps with some little regret that that is necessary, but, after all, we have, I suppose, to adapt our educational machinery to the results which we have to attain, and I think you have summed up in the most satisfactory manner in your Report the end and aim which you set before you when you say that "with regard to the School as a whole, we might summarise its aim to be that we endeavour to lay firmly the foundation of a liberal education."

I notice that in the test of your work which you have in the Calcutta University you have been able to show that you can compete with other institutions, and I venture to think that you have expressed a sound judgment in welcoming the opportunity of entering for the examinations of the London University, because I conceive it must be an advantage to the boys of the School to measure themselves in this way with those who have carried on their education in England, and with whom, no doubt, they will have to some extent to compete in their future lives.

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Mr. Principal, there is no part of your Report which I heard with greater pleasure than that in which you refer to the growth of *esprit de corps* in this School. I am one who attaches the greatest possible value to a public school education, and I should like to take this chance of exhorting the boys of the Martiniere College not to lose the opportunity, which will never recur to them, and which they can only enjoy when they are free from the cares which must inevitably come upon them in their lives as men in whatever station they may be placed, to cultivate, whether in school or in play-ground, that feeling of generous rivalry which is the best foundation for their success. I see with pleasure, as I have seen before in Calcutta, their appearance as Volunteers, and I see also before me on this table tokens that in the other manly sports they are able to hold their own, and will show a good record. I venture to think that, even on the subject to which you have alluded, namely, that the boys of this School come mainly from a class whose opportunities are fewer perhaps than those of others, there is nothing more important than the cultivation of this feeling. I only wish that we were able to translate the sympathy which we all sincerely feel for them into remedies for their disadvantages; but, at any rate, I venture to say that there is nothing which can be of greater assistance to them than that the boys themselves should cultivate the spirit of self-reliance which will enable them, in your words, Sir, "to face fearful odds."

Mr. Principal, I do not think I have more to say except to express my sincere pleasure at being here this afternoon, and my wishes for the prosperity of the School. I venture to congratulate you, Sir, on the work which you have done here, and to wish for you, and for your staff, a continuance of the results which you have been able to show to-day. (*Applause.*)

RESTITUTION OF CONJUGAL RIGHTS.

28th Feb. 1895. [At a meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, held on the 28th February, the Reports of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend certain sections of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to repeal certain sections of the Punjab Laws Act, 1872, were taken into consideration on the motion of the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller. Among the amendments in the Code, proposed by Government, was one making imprisonment in enforcement of a decree for the restitution of conjugal rights the exception, "unless where supported by a special order in which the Judge should give his reasons for inflicting it. The Select Committee on the Bill (which included the most representative native Members of the Viceroy's Council) considered, however, that the amendment should be omitted from the Bill, the Hon'ble Baba Khem Sing Bedi (a leading member of the Sikh community) being, as Sir G. Evans explained, "absolutely and irreconcilably opposed to it." The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta moved for the restoration of the amendment in a different form under which imprisonment would be the rule, and exception would only be allowed in cases where the Judge gave his reasons for considering it inappropriate. He supported his motion in a speech of some length, and a discussion ensued, in the course of which the Hon'ble Sir Antony MacDonnell and other Members, while sympathising with the spirit of the amendment, expressed their opinion that the time had not yet come for introducing it.

His Excellency, the President, in closing the discussion, said :—]

I should only like to say with regard to this point that the view which I personally hold has been very well expressed by Sir Antony MacDonnell. I have great sympathy with the feelings which have prompted this attempt to amend the law, and I should hope that the time will come, and perhaps at no very distant date, when that amendment can be carried out. But I have also to say, on behalf of the Government, that they had before them the Report of the Select Committee which, as explained to the Council, gave the fullest opportunity for members of the religions concerned to express their opinion, and, after full consideration, the Government

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of India determined to accept the Report of the Select Committee which is now before the Council. Under these circumstances, I shall certainly oppose the amendment which is now before the Council.

[The amendment was put to the vote and negatived, two Members voting for, and fifteen against it. The Bill was passed into law.]

INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES' BILL.

[In the Legislative Council of the Governor General, held on the 7th Mar. 1895, 7th March, the Bill to provide for the payment by Railway Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1882, of interest out of capital during construction, was taken into consideration on the motion of the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller.* A debate on the Bill, initiated by the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair, took place and was closed by His Excellency, the President, who spoke as follows:—]

With reference to the discussion which has just taken place, I should like to remind the Council that the subject before it is limited to the subject of the Bill, the Bill being a Bill to enable the Government [of India to allow the payment of interest out of capital during the construction of Railways, in the same way as is done in England. The debate which has ensued on the Bill has travelled over a good many points which are not exactly perhaps within the subject matter of the Bill; but, knowing the great interest that is taken in Railway matters both here and at home, I did not think that it was necessary for me to interpose on any point of strict order. The discussion which has taken place has given the Hon'ble Member who initiated it the opportunity of asking certain questions, and the Hon'ble Member of the Government of giving replies which will place before the public certain information; but these replies are not intended to initiate any fresh policy of the Government, which would of course be brought up in a more formal and regular manner. I think that what has

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passed, and the statements made by my Hon'ble Colleagues, will satisfy the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Playfair, and those who are, like him, interested in this subject, that there is nothing in which the Government takes a greater interest than the promotion of Railways in India, and, so far as I can judge, the general principles which he endeavoured to lay down in his speech are those which meet with very favourable consideration from the Government. At the same time it will be evident from the discussion that there are certain questions which have arisen as to the particular manner in which it is most desirable to invite the co-operation of private enterprise in the construction of Railways in India, on which the Government is not in a position to do more than give the information which has been offered, and I feel it desirable that I should make it quite clear that, in the statements made by my Hon'ble Colleagues, and in the information they have given, they do not desire to lay before the public any fresh line of policy on these subjects. The Bill, as I have said, is a Bill with a limited application. It gives an opportunity for the investor in India to take advantage of the same methods which are now open to investors in England, and I should hope that money will be induced to come forward to aid the Government in the construction of Railways in this country. Further than that I do not think it is necessary, on this occasion, to go.

THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

[The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin 8th Mar. 1895. Fund was held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, at 4-45 P.M. on Friday, the 8th March, His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin, the Lady President of the Association, accompanied the Viceroy, and there were also present His Honor Sir Charles Elliott, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, and Lady Elliott, the Hon'ble General Sir Henry Brackenbury, the Hon'ble Sir Antony and Lady MacDonnell, the Hon'ble Sir James Westland, the Hon'ble Sir Frederick and Lady Fryer, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Maharaja of Vizianagram, and many others. Sir Antony MacDonnell presented and moved the adoption of the Report, and Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose seconded its adoption. Sir Charles Elliott amended the original motion on the paper (to "propose a vote of thanks to His Excellency the President") by proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Patron, and to Her Excellency the Lady President. His Honor took the opportunity of reviewing the work of the Bengal Branch during the year. The resolution was seconded by Prince Bukhtyar Shah. His Excellency the Viceroy then addressed the assembly as follows:—]

Your Excellency, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
—I thankfully accept the amendment to this motion which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has proposed, because, though it is, I suppose, right to expect that a Viceroy should be ready to undertake any particular job that might be put upon him, I should hesitate if to the other duties of my office was added the responsible task of the presidency of this Association. My connection with it is, in the first place, the mere honorary position of Patron; and, in the second place, my reason for being here to-day is to act in some way as the mouthpiece of the Lady President. I do not intend, therefore, to trouble you with any formal, elaborate, or lengthy oration on this occasion. Last year when I had the privilege of being present for the first time, I endeavoured to express in a few words what appeared to me to be the fundamental idea on which this Association is founded. That has been expressed in more eloquent terms to-day by Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose; but I had the satisfaction,

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as regards my own presentment of it, to receive from Lord Dufferin the assurance that it represented substantially the view of the Lady who was the foundress of this Association.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As to the work of last year, you will find that laid before you in the volume which is now in your hands; and, as far as any summary of it is concerned, that has been done in the best possible manner by Sir Antony MacDonnell in presenting the Report.

I am glad to notice the continued increase in the number of patients who have been treated in the hospitals of this Association and other institutions connected with it. I notice that the very large increase which is presented this year is explained in a paragraph of the Report to be due, in part at all events, to fuller information with regard to some institutions which have not been taken into account in former years; and I think the Central Committee have done well to put this fact prominently before the Association, because of course it might happen that future years might not show the same corresponding increase, and it might act somewhat as a discouragement. But, besides that, I think that the step which the Central Committee have taken in gathering together this information, and in intending to pursue it further, is one that is worthy of support. I am sure everybody will feel that India is so vast a field that we can welcome every agency which proposes to work in the direction in which this Association labours.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As I have said, I do not think it is necessary for me to enter into any of the details embodied in the Report. If I departed from that resolution for a moment, it would be to refer to one special topic. We have listened to-day, as I remember well listening last year, to the interesting statement by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the work which has been done by the Bengal Branch. When I looked into the matter this year, it occurred to me, for a reason which I will mention, to look not only to the work of this year, but to the work

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of the last five years. His Honor has anticipated me by stating to you some of the facts and figures which came out in that examination. He has stated to you the increase in the number of hospitals and in the number of patients. I am not quite sure that he put before you in detail the increase in the revenue; but I should like just to mention that I find that in 1890 the amount invested in the Bengal Branch was ₹48,000; and in 1894 ₹86,500. The donations and subscriptions in 1890 were ₹7,000; they had increased in 1894 by a steady increase to ₹18,000; besides which in 1891 they amounted to no less a sum than ₹90,000, which was specially subscribed towards the building of the children's ward, to which I have no doubt many here present are aware His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor made a very handsome donation. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—These are brief facts. I think that facts which are brief are sometimes the more striking; but I do not think the figures themselves probably tell the whole progress. I fancy that, if we could follow out the Lieutenant-Governor's tours, we should find many a new hospital or dispensary, or other progress in medical relief, and I think we should not have very far to look for the influence which brought these improvements to pass. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think you will have no doubt as to the reason which prompted me to refer to this matter. As Sir Antony MacDonnell has stated, and as the Lieutenant-Governor himself has said, this, I fear, is the last occasion on which he will move the motion to which I am replying, and I am afraid that we cannot hope that we shall have again here present with us at this Meeting the present Lady President of the Bengal Branch. It would be unpardonable in me to speak here and now of the loss which we know is impending, but I hope that Lady Elliott will forgive me for asking this Meeting to remember the good work which she has done for the Association during her time in Bengal. (*Applause.*) I am sure that of the many

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institutions which will miss her here, there is none that will be so sorry for her departure, or from which, if I may venture to say so, she will be so sorry to part, as the Bengal Branch of the Dufferin Association. (*Applause.*)

There is one other local matter to which I should like to refer for a moment. I find that, in the Report of 1890, there was this paragraph:—"The establishment of boarding houses in connection with female medical education is a matter of great importance;" and also that this was recognised by Lady Dufferin herself when alluding to the necessity of a suitable boarding-house at Agra. I find also that boarding-houses for female students have been built in connection with the medical schools of Agra and Lahore, and the Medical College of Calcutta, but that the Campbell Medical School with 33 medical students, who are all Bengali ladies, is without the advantage of such accommodation. I understand that Lady Elliott is very anxious that a boarding-house should be erected in connection with this school; and I am desired by the Lady President to express her cordial sympathy with Lady Elliott's desire, and to say that we are sure that the opinion of one who has done so much for the medical relief of the women of Bengal will weigh very greatly with those who are able to support a movement of the kind. (*Applause.*)

As I have already said, my chief duty here is to act as the mouthpiece of the Lady President, and there are one or two matters on which I have instructions to speak. In the first place, she has desired me to return her thanks to the Local Committees, to the Civil Surgeons, and to others connected with the work in various parts of the country for the assistance they have given to the Association during the past year. In the second place, she desires me to offer a still more personal acknowledgment to the Members of the Central Committee with which she has had constant meetings, and has endeavoured to carry on

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the work of the Central Association. There have, as stated in the Report, been many changes during the course of this year—changes which are inevitable to Indian life—and we know that there are some which are pending this moment. The Lady President feels that she cannot contemplate the retirement from the Committee of Dr. Rice and Sir Antony MacDonnell without very great regret. In the third place, Her Excellency desires me to return her even more personal acknowledgments for, and to express her sense of, what the Association owes to the efforts of the Honorary Secretary. I can bear testimony myself to a pretty constant flow of office boxes; but whether in dealing with them, or in the visits which Her Excellency has paid to various hospitals in the endeavour to obtain knowledge of the work they were undertaking, she has owed much to the care and assistance she has received from Dr. Franklin. (*Applause.*) That brings me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the only other point on which I should like to say a word. This Association is—as I think one of the speakers just now said—“a gigantic organisation.” It is also an Indian organisation, and therefore its officers must follow the rule which obtains in most Indian organisations of the kind which extend over a considerable part of the country,—and that is, they go on tour. Lady Elgin has been on tour, and there is this peculiarity of the Lady President’s tours, that they must not clash with the Viceroy’s tours, and therefore I know something about them. Well, Lady Elgin has been on tour, and has seen a good many hospitals, as His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has stated. But, in visiting them, there is one question which she has always had before her, and to which she has paid particular attention, and that is the provision that was made for the *purda nasheen* women, and the extent to which advantage was taken of that provision. I do not intend on this occasion to enter into any general discussion of that subject. You will find

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in the Report a passage which is very interesting, and which gives the present opinion of the Central Committee on the matter. All that I desire to say now is that the Lady President's experience, so far as it has gone, is in the direction of that passage of the Report, and that she agrees with the opinion there expressed that there are hopeful symptoms to be found. No doubt cases occur in which provision has been made, but remains unoccupied. There may even be cases in which sufficient accommodation, or proper accommodation, has not been made; but in most cases the provision is there, and is ready to be occupied if the patients apply, and in some cases it is taken advantage of. Her Excellency was very much struck by the arrangements made at Allahabad, and the full extent to which the wards there were occupied, and there was this rather striking circumstance with regard to the patients attending that hospital, that they not only came once, but that they returned. One woman whom Her Excellency found there had entered the hospital for the third time. Now, in my opinion—and that is the only thing I wish to say on the matter—example is better than precept in a case of this kind; and the best hope we can have of realising what we desire in this matter is that the people of the country should gradually be brought to see that this provision which is made for them is one which they can accept, and can accept to their advantage. It is no use blinking the question. We know perfectly well that there are difficulties in India; but, after all, the difficulty of getting people to attend hospitals is not confined to India. I have myself fought the fight for hospitals elsewhere, and I venture to hope that in this matter of the opening out of medical relief, and hospital relief in cases where medical relief at home cannot be adequately provided, that we shall have to persevere in the good principles on which this Fund was founded, and I firmly believe that if we persevere we shall ultimately succeed. (*Applause.*)

PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS, CALCUTTA.

[His Excellency the Viceroy as Colonel-in-Chief of the Administrative Battalion of the Presidency Volunteers (which includes the Calcutta Light Horse, the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, the two Battalions of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, and the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles) held his annual inspection of the several Corps on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd March, and Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin afterwards distributed the prizes. The parade and the distribution of prizes took place in front of Government House, and were witnessed by a large number of people, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Lady Elliot, being present. After inspecting the Corps His Excellency addressed them as follows :—]

Colonel Chatterton, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Presidency Volunteers.—A full year has now elapsed since I met you here for the first time, and I have very much pleasure in welcoming you here again at this annual meeting. I assured you last year of the interest which, as your Honorary Colonel, I should take in your progress, and I have only to-day to repeat that I shall continue to watch with much interest your proceedings in the future. The ceremony of to-day sums up and concludes, as I understand it, the proceedings of your year. We, therefore, naturally have not before us any formal report of those proceedings, and I am not able, even if it were expedient, to enter into any details. Some indeed of the details of your proceedings are represented on the prize table behind me, and will immediately be disposed of amongst those successful members of the Corps who have distinguished themselves either by their individual achievements, or, what is perhaps still more important, by their steadiness and discipline as members of the Corps.

I have to congratulate the successful competitors on their efforts. I venture to hope that their success will have a twofold effect: in the first place, that it will stimulate and encourage them to persevere, and to endeavour to repeat their success in the year that is now about to open; and, in the second place, that it will stimulate every one of their com-

Presidency Volunteers, Calcutta.

rades to do his best to frustrate that laudable intention by the still more laudable endeavour to beat them. I think I may say that a fair and honourable rivalry of this sort is most important to the Volunteer movement, and specially important to you, in order to maintain the high position of the Presidency Volunteers; for I may remind you that you have a high position to maintain. You have been distinguished in former years, and in the year which is now closing the Calcutta Rifle Volunteers have come out sixth in the competition for what is called the "Honour and Glory" match for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Prize; and that means that out of 147 competing teams there were only five that could beat you.

Colonel Chatterton,—I should not like this occasion to pass without a word as to one of the particular features of your Battalion, and that is the Cadet Company. I feel sure that there is not one of the schools that will find fault with me in congratulating the Company which has proved successful in the Lieutenant-Governor's Prize Competition for Drill. The Free School Company is, I believe, the smallest in stature, but it has made good attempts for several years, and this year it has been pronounced to be the smartest in drill. I think that it is necessary also to say a word of the second in the competition, for the Armenian Company have made a very marked improvement both in strength and in efficiency, and are only three marks behind the Free School. And, as regards the Cadets as a whole, I should like to congratulate them on their success in shooting; for, I find that no less than 11 of them have won good prizes, and will come up to-day to receive them as competitors in the open competition for adults.

Colonel Chatterton,—I have no doubt that one of the facts on which the Battalion will congratulate itself this year is that no fewer than seven of your officers have received the Volunteer Decoration which is given to those of long and meritorious service; and, if I might add one other fact upon which I specially congratulate myself, it is that

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Colonel Stuart, the Colonel of the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, has accepted a position in connection with my Staff.

I have assured you before, and I assure you to-day, of the personal interest which I take in the Volunteers. I esteem myself fortunate that I have an opportunity of manifesting that interest also as a member of the Government. My Honourable Colleague in charge of the Military Department has, as you are aware, introduced a Bill; and, if any one cares to know the high value which the Government sets on the Volunteer movement, he has only to turn to the eloquent speech which my Honourable Colleague delivered when introducing that Bill. We propose, under certain conditions, to effect material improvements in the condition of the Volunteers. I have every confidence that the Volunteers will cheerfully accept—perhaps I am even bold enough to hope that they will enthusiastically welcome—the conditions which we offer; and we, on our part, are most ready to do what we can, because we know that we can look to the Volunteers as a reserve of strength, which, if a time of crisis or danger should come, we can rely upon, and be sure that it will not fail us.

[The prizes were then distributed by Her Excellency, after which, three cheers, led by Colonel Chatterton, were given for the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin.]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1895-96.

28th Mar. 1895. [The Hon'ble Sir James Westland, Financial Member of Council, made his Financial Statement for 1895-96 in the Viceroy's Legislative Council on the 21st March, and the discussion of it took place on the 28th idem. The discussion was opened by the Hon'ble Mr. James, who was followed by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans, the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Ajudhia, the Hon'bles Messrs. Playfair, Chitnavis, and Mehta, the Hon'bles Sir A. MacDonnell, Lieutenant-General Sir H. Brackenbury, the Lieutenant-Governor, and Sir James Westland.

In closing the debate His Excellency the President said :—]

I am afraid that I cannot gratify the curiosity of the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta and add to the information, which he seems to have obtained from some unknown source, of what takes place when the Council of the Governor General meets in this chamber without the Additional Members who give their assistance in making Laws and Regulations. Even with the explanation of the Hon'ble Sir James Westland, I must not be taken as admitting the accuracy of this information; but, in any case, the Hon'ble Financial Member speaks here as the representative of the Government on the general financial position. It is, therefore, no part of my duty to do more than to emphasise the fact that is apparent from the speeches of the Hon'ble Member and Sir Henry Brackenbury, and from the events that have taken place elsewhere, that the Government of India, and Her Majesty's Government, are thoroughly in accord in promoting and maintaining the measures which the necessities of India may require.

There is only one section of the general Financial Statement on which I wish to say a word, and that is the section beginning with paragraph 59, dealing with the conversion of the 4 per cent. Debt. The Hon'ble Mr. Playfair has, I think, expressed the public appreciation of the success of this operation, which has resulted in a large saving to the Imperial Revenues, and has been carried out in a manner calculated not only to ensure success, but to cause as little

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inconvenience as might be to individuals, or to the money market.

The Hon'ble Financial Member, in paragraph 74, has conveyed to the Banks the thanks which are undoubtedly due to them for their exertions. There was one word which he could not add. I think I ought to say that Her Majesty's Government left the conduct of this matter to the Government of India, and have recorded, in a Despatch lately received, their high appreciation of the manner in which the work has been done by the Financial Department, and especially by the Member in charge. I know that the Hon'ble Member modestly attributes much to a good opportunity ; but it is not every one who knows how to use a good opportunity well ; and, as one who has stood by and seen every stage, I think it my duty to bear witness to the tact, resolution, and knowledge displayed in this business by my Hon'ble Colleague, and his chief co-adjutor, Mr. Jacob.

There is one other subject which has been referred to in this discussion on which I have something to say. The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans called attention to the Chitral Expedition in terms to which I wish to take no objection. I recognise that he speaks with no intention of embarrassing the Government ; and I am sure he will appreciate my observation that, while it is easy for him to put general questions, and raise questions of general policy, it is quite a different thing for me to follow him over all the ground that he has covered.

It is desirable that the position of the Government of India in Chitral should be clearly understood. So long ago as 1876 the Maharaja of Kashmir was permitted to accept the Chitral Mehtar's offer of suzerainty, and the Government of India then undertook to afford countenance and material aid to Kashmir in the defence, or maintenance, of this arrangement. This pledge has been repeated to Kashmir, and also directly to the late Mehtar of Chitral. The Kashmir State and the Government of India have both,

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for years, granted annual subsidies to the ruler of Chitral. When the British Agency at Gilgit was withdrawn in 1881, the Kashmir State was assured that the Government of India nevertheless adhered to their policy with regard to Chitral. This policy has been to accept the *de facto* Mehtar, provided he could maintain his position and accepted the suzerainty of Kashmir.

One of the consequences of the re-establishment of the Gilgit Agency in 1889 has been that the legitimate influence of the British Government has been maintained by the presence in Chitral territory of an officer, who is an Assistant to the British Agent at Gilgit, with a small escort of regular troops, supported by garrisons at Gupis and Ghizr, in Yasin. His head-quarters have been at Mastuj, but he has been in the habit of visiting the Mehtar at Chitral. This arrangement has been cordially acquiesced in by successive Mehtars. The late Mehtar would have preferred to keep the British officer permanently with him in Chitral itself; but the Government of India declined to increase more than necessary the unavoidable risks of the position.

It was foreseen that, in case a British officer were in Chitral, and should Nizam-ul-Mulk come to an untimely end in spite of his presence, his position would be one of extreme danger.

At the time of the murder of Nizam-ul-Mulk in January last, Lieutenant Gurdon, the Political Officer, was on a visit to Chitral with an escort of only 10 men. By great prudence and tact he avoided any collision with Amir-ul-Mulk and his party, and the arrival of a reinforcement of 50 men from Mastuj enabled him to maintain his position till he was joined, on February 1st, by Mr. Robertson, the British Agent at Gilgit.

That Lieutenant Gurdon's position was one of danger was realised by Mr. Robertson, and by the Government of India, from the moment that they received the news of Nizam-ul-Mulk's murder. It was impossible for him to

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withdraw with safety. On January 8th Mr. Robertson wrote to Lieutenant Gurdon:—"If there is any prospect of trouble, sit tight and send off urgent messengers to Mastuj and Ghizr, and do not commit yourself and your escort to that terrible road along the left bank of the river between Mastuj and Chitral." Recent events have only too terribly confirmed the wisdom of that advice. It was, therefore, essential that he should be supported or relieved in some manner. It was also considered by the Government to be desirable that Mr. Robertson should go to Chitral to endeavour to bring about a peaceful solution of the succession—a very difficult task for which his experience specially qualified him. He was instructed to report to the Government of India what claimant would be most acceptable to the people.

All this was in the regular course of business. But at this point Umra Khan appeared on the scene, perhaps as a partner in the plot for the murder of the Mehtar, but, at all events, as an aggressor, who laid siege to the frontier fort of Kila Drosh. There is no community between the people of Bajaur and the tribes subject to the Mehtar of Chitral, who are different in race, in sentiment, and in character. Umra Khan has entertained, for some years past, aggressive designs upon Chitral, and has openly acknowledged his enmity with the ruling family. The Government of India have had, on several occasions since 1891, to warn Umra Khan that aggression in Chitral would be regarded with disfavour. Umra Khan could make no pretence of a right to interfere in the Chitral succession. He had acknowledged the relative positions of Chitral and the Government of India when, in 1890, he himself applied to the Government of India to mediate between him and Chitral in regard to their respective claims to land which, however, he subsequently occupied by force when the old Mehtar, Aman-ul-Mulk, died in 1892. On the occasion of making his present invasion into Chitral territory he represented, in writing to

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the officers of the Government, that he had no design of interfering in the business of Government, but that Amir-ul-Mulk had opposed his wishes, and he had been compelled to become his enemy. Still the fact remains that it was in defiance of warnings that he came, and it is in defiance of renewed warnings that he still remains.

Umra Khan was joined, about the 24th February, by Sher Afzal. This man is a brother of the former Mehtar, Aman-ul-Mulk, and therefore uncle to the last two rulers. He had long been a refugee from Chitral in Badakshan, whence he made a sudden raid on Chitral in November 1892, killed his nephew Afzal-ul-Mulk, and usurped the power. His rule was short, for when Nizam-ul-Mulk advanced on December 1st, 1892, he had not sufficient support to hold his own, and fled to Kabul, whence he has now re-appeared as a claimant for the Mehtarship. There is reason to believe that he has by no means the unanimous support of the people, but, under certain circumstances, he might have proved an acceptable candidate. He has, however, come with the open support of Umra Khan, has identified himself with the defiance of the Government of India, and has sent an insolent letter to the British Agent requiring the withdrawal of all British officers from Chitral, and threatening an advance of Umra Khan's troops should they not be withdrawn.

It has been necessary to say this much to enable a just view to be formed of the circumstances. Mr. Robertson, in the exercise of his duty as the representative of the Suzerain Power, is present in Chitral. Under all ordinary circumstances the forces and supplies at Gilgit would have sufficed for the maintenance of peace and of our proper influence and position. But the circumstances are not normal; the presence of Umra Khan has disturbed the calculations on which the existing arrangements were based. I can best describe the effect of the invasion in Mr. Robertson's own words. Writing from Mastuj on

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January 28th he said:—"Umra Khan invested Kila Drosh on the 26th, and has effected a complete change in the situation. All Chitralis are united to resist Umra Khan. In the same letter he said:—"Gurdon cannot withdraw from Chitral without our help; and if he made any sign of retiring, we should be mobbed and overwhelmed by crowds of fugitives. Chitral is in a state of panic. We cannot get to Chitral before the 31st.

"Umra Khan is credited with a desire to arrest Gurdon—by some people. When we get to Chitral the situation is not much better, except that Gurdon will be safe.

"If Umra Khan advances rapidly with the most overwhelming force, even then we can hardly retire with prudence—the road is so terribly bad.

"Supplies, if they can be purchased, cannot be brought in at present, as all men are away fighting. My present idea, subject to subsequent alteration or modification, is to try and get to Chitral and hold the fort there, to the bitter end if necessary. If Umra Khan fails at Kila Drosh, or makes no further advance, it is only the supply question which should then trouble us."

The fall of Kila Drosh still further accentuated the difficulty. Up till then Mr. Robertson had, after reaching Chitral, maintained most scrupulously the attitude of non-interference prescribed by his instructions, in spite of repeated requests from the Chitralis. But when Umra Khan had thus committed himself to an act of open hostility, the Government of India felt that, however unwilling they might be to recognise Amir-ul-Mulk as Mehtar, he was there *de facto*, and they were bound to authorise Mr. Robertson to give the Chitralis such material and moral support as was necessary to repel the invaders; and they, at the same time, gave orders for the reinforcement of the various garrisons so far as troops were available in the Gilgit district. I was a little sorry to hear the remark made by the Hon'ble Member, which might be taken—

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though I am sure he did not so mean it—as somewhat disparaging to our officers in the Gilgit district. I have before me a list of those officers, and it contains many names of men who, though perhaps comparatively young, have seen much service of the kind they are now called upon to perform, and have been specially selected for the present duty. We are not able at present to write the history of recent events; but we do know that, in a moment of emergency, Lieutenant Gurdon, one of these officers, not only kept his head, but showed a courage and resource that would have done credit to the most experienced. I should also mention that Colonel Kelly, Commanding the Pioneer Regiment, the senior officer, is now in military command. The orders for the reinforcement of the garrisons issued from Calcutta on February 19th, before Sher Afzal had appeared on the scene, and when the matter before Mr. Robertson and the Government of India was the rendering of assistance to Chitral in protecting the country from an invader, not the support of one candidate against another.

It soon became apparent that further measures were necessary; and when, after March 1st, all communication with Mr. Robertson ceased, the Government of India were forced to review the position. Shortly it was this, that Mr. Robertson, our duly accredited Agent, who had been obliged to push on to Chitral, as I have stated, by the paramount necessity of securing Lieutenant Gurdon's safety, was himself cut off by some agency of which we knew little, but which could scarcely be other than hostile. We knew that Mr. Robertson did not regard himself in any immediate danger. He held the fort, a strong position, with about 300 men, and he said that any attack on the fort was "as improbable as its accomplishment would be impossible;" but, his communications being cut, any attempt to replenish his supplies was a very difficult operation—how difficult and dangerous has since been seen. The

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Government of India were bound by every consideration to relieve their officers from such a position which, if not of immediate, was certainly one of proximate danger.

Now, reinforcements could not be sent by Kashmir and Gilgit because the Passes are closed by snow until June at earliest, when it would be too late to relieve Mr. Robertson by that circuitous route. There was but one alternative—an advance from Peshawar; and the hostile combination of Umra Khan and Sher Afzal gave an additional justification for its adoption.

Jandol lies between British India and Chitral, on the only road open at this time of the year, and the Government of India have come very reluctantly to the conclusion that, as Umra Khan will not listen to remonstrances, but persists in a course which must result in danger to Mr. Robertson and his party, they have a duty which they must perform, and that is, 'by entering his territory, to compel him to look to his own affairs.

On the best information available the Government believed that Mr. Robertson's supplies ought to suffice till about the end of April, and the orders for the collection of transport, issued on March 7th, were calculated to enable his relief to be effected by that time. Subsequent arrangements have been made with the same object.

I have no doubt that Hon'ble Members will agree that the disaster to Captain Ross's party, in their attempt to reach Chitral from Mastuj, has made it apparent that these orders were not issued a day too soon, and has established the necessity of the expedition.

It may be desirable to indicate the considerations which have determined the strength of the force which is being mobilised. The Government of India have proclaimed to the tribes along the Peshawar border the object with which this expedition will go forth, and that their independence is absolutely assured; and it is hoped that their concurrence will be obtained. But the Government of India

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cannot shut their eyes to the fact that they have to secure a long and difficult line of communications, and they are of opinion that, in the interests of peace, this must be held in great strength. Any resistance offered not merely to the fighting line, but to its supports or convoys, might leave behind fresh grounds of quarrel—and the Government of India, while they must push on to their goal and insist, by force if necessary, upon the removal of the hostile aggression which menaces their officers in Chitral, desire, above all things, to avoid any step which may lead to any extension of the frontiers of British India, or any interference with the independence of the tribes. For the attainment of these objects, it is necessary not only to use every effort to convince the tribes of our friendly intentions to them, but also to advance, now that advance has become inevitable, in such force as to make it evident that any hostility on their part could be instantly and effectually crushed.

I hope that Hon'ble Members will admit that, in laying before them the information in my possession and the object of the Government, I have spoken with the utmost frankness. I am not going to obscure what I have endeavoured to make clear by being drawn into a disquisition on Frontier policy which might not, in any event, be very appropriate in this Council—certainly never so inappropriate as now. For the present we have before us a single issue—the claim of brave men, British and Indian, who have not flinched in the performance of their duty, to the support of their countrymen in their hour of need. It is a claim that I believe will go straight home to every British and Indian heart, that will inspire our counsels with unanimity, and will quicken the step of every man whose duty calls him forth on this expedition.

DUFFERIN ZENANA HOSPITAL, GAYA.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin, accompanied by Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary, Colonel Durand, Military Secretary, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Franklin and other Members of the Staff, left Calcutta on Friday, the 29th March 1895, at 4-33 P. M., for Simla, visiting Gaya and Patna *en route*. Their Excellencies arrived at Gaya on Saturday morning, the 30th March, and in the course of the day the Countess of Elgin opened the New Dufferin Zenana Hospital. In replying on behalf of Her Excellency to the address presented to her on the occasion, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have been requested by Her Excellency to say a few words on her behalf and to acknowledge your kindly greetings to her in the address which has been just read. I think I may say that Her Excellency, since she first assumed the office of Lady President of the Dufferin Fund, has desired to treat her duties in connection with the Fund, not as the occupation of a vacant hour, but as public and responsible work which having undertaken she owed it to the women of India to prosecute strenuously and conscientiously. Her Excellency therefore has lost no opportunity, in passing through various districts, of making herself acquainted with what is going on there, and of offering such encouragement as it was in her power to give to those who were bearing the burden and heat of the day. Therefore, as I said this morning at the railway station, Her Excellency comes here to-day, as part of the performance of her duty, to learn what you have been doing, and what you propose to do, and to convey to you the cordial support of the Central Committee over which she presides. I notice that the address which has just been presented informs us that the buildings in which we are now assembled have not yet assumed the complete form which they will ultimately assume ; but Her Excellency has seen the plans of this institution and she desires me to say that they give her satisfaction. We must never forget the fundamental principle which underlies the establishment of the Fund, in connec-

Dufferin Zenana Hospital, Gaya.

tion with which we have met here. That principle is that we do not wish to constrain the women of India to adopt our ideas, or to cut themselves adrift from customs which they cherish; but we wish to bring to them that medical aid which they, in common with the whole of mankind, assuredly need, in the forms which are most readily accepted by them. I have heard with satisfaction that the lady who has hitherto been carrying on the work in connection with the female medical aid of this district has been received, perhaps, I may say, welcomed, in many zenanas, and I have no doubt that thereby she has brought relief to many sufferers. Now, I wish it to be distinctly understood that the provision of hospitals in no way runs counter to treatment in zenanas; on the contrary, it is natural, and universally accepted and believed, that proper hospital treatment is a necessary complement to home treatment. It is evident that there must be many cases in which special treatment, or special accommodation, or special nursing, is required, and, on the other hand, there must be many homes in which patients suffering from severe illness cannot receive that special attention which is necessary in order that they should recover from illness. In fact, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think this is a proposition that requires any elaboration. It applies not only to women, but equally to men; and I believe there is no doubt that the men of India, whenever they go to a hospital, appreciate the value of the treatment which they receive there. Now, the object, and the sole object, of the Dufferin Fund is to bring to the women of India the same advantages which the men already possess, and I venture to think that it is very desirable to do, as I believe you have done here—to consult local opinion as to the best methods to be pursued.

We have heard, as I have said, that it is proposed to erect private cottages in connection with this institution, to form what I may call wings, and we have heard that these cottages have arrangements connected with them, suggested in consultation with gentlemen of the locality who have

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already liberally contributed to its funds and who have once more come forward with generous donations to meet any extra costs which may have been incurred in making these further arrangements complete. I venture to hope that, under these circumstances, the Committee do not go beyond what they are fairly entitled to do in expressing the conviction that this institution will go on and prosper in this ancient and sacred city of Gaya. There is one more matter in which the Committee occupy an enviable position. It is not every hospital which starts with an assured income. In the address which has been just read it has been stated that the liberal contributions received will go far towards securing for this hospital a regular endowment. I am glad to be able to add that that passage will now have to be re-written, because I am informed that Rajkumari Rattan Kuar of Tikari, whose grandfather presented a quarter of a lakh originally, has now promised an annual contribution of Rs. 1,200, which practically secures the permanent endowment of the hospital. If I may add one word more, I should venture to urge those of the leading members of the community who have subscribed liberally, and who have taken an interest in the hospital, not to allow their interest to stop with those subscriptions, valuable as they are. Their influence must be great with their countrymen. I rather hesitate to suggest that illness might occur in any of their families, but after all we are only part of the same human family, and we know that illness may occur anywhere; and all I venture to say is that if they ever have to deal with cases which require hospital treatment, they should think that after all example is better than precept, and should not allow a noble institution which they have done so much to create, to fall into disuse.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have, on behalf of Her Excellency, to say that she will ever remember the proceedings of this day and be glad that she is able to associate her name with the Dufferin Zenana Hospital at Gaya; and further, that

Address at Gaya.

she will make it her duty to convey your loyal message to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose affection for the women of India you have most appropriately described—an affection which is manifested in her support of the great movement which has brought us here to-day.

ADDRESS AT GAYA.

1st April 1895.

[On Monday, the 1st April, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin visited the city of Gaya, and in the evening Lord Elgin attended a meeting of the leading European and Native representatives of the Gaya District at the Halliday Hall and was presented with an address of welcome on behalf of the various classes, creeds, and communities in the district. In replying to the address His Excellency spoke as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to have this opportunity of meeting the representatives of the various classes, creeds, and communities in the district of Gaya—a district, as you justly boast, not unknown in the records of history. It cannot but add to the interest of my visit that I find myself the first of those who have held the office of Governor-General who has been able to make the personal acquaintance of the people of this place, and, with the exception of Lord Northbrook who came to Patna in 1874, of the inhabitants of the province of Behar. I venture to say without hesitation that this has not arisen from any lack of interest in your great and important province. I may perhaps draw from local custom and tradition a claim to speak for the former occupants of my office. Many a pilgrim has come to Gaya from no other motive except to pray for his ancestors, and I hope you will allow my pilgrimage of to-day to justify my predecessors in your eyes. And in another respect also I desire to follow the example of the ordinary pilgrim: I am not here to pay you an official visit. You have in your address, which has just been read, extended to me a welcome in virtue of my office, and I thank you

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for so doing: but it is in one of the brief holidays—very brief at times like this when the Government has much serious business to deal with—that I have found it in my power to snatch a day or two to see for my own gratification the sights of interest which abound here. Government, as you are aware, must preserve a strict, perhaps a stern, impartiality, of which you have indicated your appreciation; but it is possible for individuals, whether members of the Government or not, to draw closer, if they do so in a becoming spirit. It has seemed to me that when we approach spots or deal with institutions which other men hold in veneration and affection, our first object should be to do our best to appreciate the feelings inspired by them, and our second to see that we do nothing by word or deed to injure those feelings. Depend upon it, if men look out for the good rather than for the evil, the opportunities for concord and amity will be found to be far more numerous than might at first be supposed, and subjects which might lead to difficulty and even controversy will be found to be much more easily dealt with. I rejoice to hear your emphatic declaration in favour of a spirit of tolerance, and to know that your experience has proved it to be so effective in the establishment of cordial relations between the members of the great religious bodies represented in this district. It rests with you, gentlemen, as the leaders of the people, to see that this matter is set on a firm and stable basis, and to carry it out in all your relations. You will have the cordial good-will of the Government in prosecuting this patriotic work. It may be that I am speaking under the subtle influence of places held sacred by so large a proportion of the human race, but I strongly feel that the peace and concord reigning here are of happy omen, and I look to you that they be not lightly disturbed.

I regret to learn that, in your opinion, your province is not so prosperous as it might be, and yet in one sense your observations seem to me not without hope. We make

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the first step onwards when we recognise that we are behind; and if it be the case that you are in any way backward, compared with the sister province of Bengal, I think I am justified in the expectation that you are prepared like men to set about wiping away the reproach. Be assured that any real and earnest attempt at improvement or progress will have the cordial support of Government, whether it be the business of the Local Government, or of the Government of India. But again let me impress upon you the supreme importance of individual exertion; again let me say that it is to your leaders that we must look to guide the operations of the people, whether the cause be the promotion of education or the support of schemes in which the material prosperity or health of the community is concerned. And, gentlemen, I look to you with the greater confidence, because I honestly believe that you do not go one jot beyond the fact when you assure me of the universal and unqualified appreciation by the population of Behar of the manifold benefits conferred upon the Empire by British rule.

I have to thank you for the welcome you have given me to-day as Her Majesty's representative, and for your address, in which I find so hearty an expression of the sentiments which must animate the loyal subjects of the Gracious Sovereign whom you and I are equally proud to serve.

ADDRESSES AT BANKIPORE.

[The Viceregal party arrived at Bankipore on Tuesday morning, 2nd April 1895. the 2nd April, and were received by the local and district officials. His Excellency proceeded from the railway station to Sujja Bagh House, where addresses of welcome were presented to him on behalf of the Municipality and District Board, and the Behar Landholders' Association, the latter address being read by the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Durbhanga, President of the Association. The points dealt with in the addresses will be apparent from His Excellency's reply, which was as follows :—]

Maharaja and Gentlemen,—In acknowledging the addresses which have been just read, and which you have kindly permitted me to respond to collectively, I have to express once more the gratification which the welcome extended to Lady Elgin and myself in the province of Behar has occasioned us both. In Gaya, the home of so much that is sacred and mystic, we have met with nothing but sympathy and respect from the people; and here now in Patna, which was a capital city in days gone by, and is in these modern days the centre of commercial activity and trade, we find extended to us the same cordial and kindly welcome. I think, gentlemen, I am entitled to conclude, for by no possibility could this be a personal matter, that the people of the provinces wish to express their contentment with the rule under which they live, and I esteem myself fortunate that it has fallen to my lot to represent, for the time being, a Government which elicits a demonstration which will be so gratifying to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, in whose name I now come.

Gentlemen of the Municipality and District Board,—I should be ungrateful if I passed by without a word of thanks the kindly reference to my father which you have been pleased to make. I suppose that if I were to avow that the constant recurrence of these reminiscences is dear to me I should be thoroughly in accord with the sentiments of Hindustan. I am glad to find that you who are entrusted

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with the health of the community are not content in this place to rest on your oars, and that I am able to congratulate you upon the completion of a system of drainage. I entirely endorse your opinion that a good water-supply is the natural complement to drainage. In fact water-works and drainage works are twin-sisters, and if you invite one sister to your dwelling you must very soon extend the invitation to the other. It is more often the case that the water sister comes first, because men cannot exist without her in some form or another; and there are several cases that have come under my notice in which it has been necessary to send a prompt invitation to the other sister. If there was delay there was mischief. Your present position is the exact counterpart. You have done well to invite the drainage sister amongst you; but depend upon it if you don't give her the companion she needs she will tell you that she cannot do her work, and you will imperil your enjoyment of the blessings with which her hands are full. Gentlemen, I trust that those who are interested in this great city will take this fact into their serious consideration, and that the second part of so important a work may not long be delayed.

Maharaja and Gentlemen of the Behar Landholders' Association,—I esteem it a great honour that you, who represent so influential a class of the community, have come here to-day, and have spoken in such friendly terms of my coming among you. I appreciate especially your recognition of the single aim and object of Government. I believe that, from Her Gracious Majesty at our head, through all the branches of the administration, British and Indian, the public weal is ever before us, and I would not counsel any man to enter our ranks who was not prepared to make it his constant solicitude. As you observe, the charge of many millions of men who inhabit this Empire of India brings with it very onerous duties, but I can assure you that we must be very hard pressed indeed before we deny to any

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simply by giving effect to objections, but by recognising matter that touches the interests of Behar our most careful consideration.

Gentlemen,—I beg once more to convey to you the best thanks of Lady Elgin and myself for all the good wishes you have offered us. May I, in return, express to you the hope that there may be vouchsafed to the people of Behar the threefold blessing of good seasons and abundant harvests, a settled, impartial, and sympathetic Government, and the spread of peace, content, and tranquillity. (*Applause.*)

PILGRIM SHIPS BILL.

[In the Viceroy's Legislative Council, on the 11th July, the Hon'ble 3rd Oct. 1895. Sir Alexander Mackenzie moved for and obtained leave to introduce a Bill to make better provision for the regulation of pilgrim ships. He explained at some length why it was necessary to amend the law affecting pilgrim vessels and to treat them entirely apart from ordinary passenger ships. On the 3rd October, the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill was considered and certain amendments made in the Bill to meet the objections taken by the Muhammadan community to the provisions of the original draft. The Hon'ble Sir Jahan Kadr cordially supported the amended Bill, which he said now gave complete satisfaction to the Muhammadan community so far as he had been able to ascertain their feeling on the subject.

His Excellency the President in closing the discussion spoke as follows :—]

I do not wish to detain the Council, but I cannot refrain from one word of comment as to the position in which we to-day find ourselves. The Government of India, in the discharge of a duty which, so long as India retains a place in the comity of nations, they cannot fail to perform, introduced this Bill into this Council. The Council, in the exercise of its constitutional functions, has expanded the provisions of this Bill and thereby made it one which the Hon'ble Member Sir Jahan Kadr, speaking on behalf of his Muhammadan co-religionists, has told us he can gratefully accept. This has been accomplished, in my opinion, not

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that a remedy was required for an acknowledged evil. I welcome this result for two reasons. In the first place, I think it will vastly strengthen the case against unreasonable restrictions; and, in the second place, it will facilitate the early amendment of the existing conditions of the pilgrimage to Mecca. The Council is aware that the Government of India did not consider necessary all the restrictions which it was proposed by the Paris Convention to introduce in regard to the pilgrim traffic. We have nothing to retract in that respect; but, in presenting our views once more to the Secretary of State, which the delay in the ratification of the Convention will enable us to do, we shall now have the great advantage of the support of those representations and memorials from the various bodies of the Muhammadan community, which, as my Hon'ble Colleague has pointed out, have, as a rule, discussed this question with moderation and good sense. And, in my opinion, a more potent argument still will be that this Council has not denied that evils exist in connection with the pilgrim traffic, but has set itself earnestly, with the full assent of those who represent Muhammadan feeling, to devise means for the improvement of the conditions under which that traffic is carried on.

The Council, by the provisions of this Bill, entrusts the Government with wide powers. I venture to say that it does so because it recognises that the Government of India, far from any wish to impede, or restrict, the pilgrimage to Mecca, desires only to render the performance of their religious duty by their Muhammadan fellow-subjects more convenient and more consistent with safety and the decencies of ordinary life.

It will be the duty of the Government of India, as my Hon'ble Friend Sir Alexander Mackenzie has pointed out, not hastily, but with full consideration, and after due notice, to frame regulations to carry out the objects of this Bill, so far as their jurisdiction extends. Having done so, they will have set their house in order, and they will be doubly

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able to protest against restrictions which either impose unnecessary burdens, or, as at present at Camaran, expose pilgrims to almost intolerable hardships. I believe, from the proceedings on this Bill, that the Muhammadans of India are prepared to look to the Government of India as their advocates in this matter, and I have little doubt that when the case is completely before Her Majesty's Government, as it will now soon be, we shall have their hearty concurrence and support so far as they are able to accord it to us in this matter.

[The Motion that the Bill be passed was put and agreed to.]

ADDRESS FROM THE AGRA MUNICIPALITY.

[On Thursday morning, the 24th October, the Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary, Colonel A. Durand, Military Secretary, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Franklin, Surgeon to the Viceroy, and other members of His Excellency's Staff, left Simla on his annual autumn tour. Their Excellencies arrived at Agra on the morning of the 25th October, and were received at the railway station by His Honour Mr. Cadell, (Officiating) Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, the Commissioner of Agra, the General Officer Commanding the Bundelkhand District, and other officers, Civil and Military. The Maharaja of Karauli, the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur, and the Nawab of Rampur, with their principal officials, were also in attendance. The Agra Municipal Corporation presented an address of welcome in which they remarked that this was not the first time Agra had been visited by a member of Lord Elgin's family, for some of the members of the Municipality could recollect when His Excellency's father, with an imposing military escort, rode across the pontoon bridge in February 1863, to preside at the Durbar held at Agra in that year. Great changes had since taken place and much progress had been made. Agra was at that time the terminus of the East Indian Railway, and the late Lord Elgin, when he left for the hills, continued his journey on horseback. Now three lines of railway were united under the roof of the railway station, and the survey for a fourth line from Muttra had lately been completed. The population had increased 20 per cent., additional hospitals had been built, and the progress in education and sanitation was marked. In connection with water-works

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and drainage, the Corporation expressed the hope that, in consideration of the heavy sacrifices which must be made under these heads for years, the Government would deal with them in a liberal spirit, and that the rate of interest on the funds supplied for works of public utility should be fixed as low as the state of the Imperial Exchequer would admit. Referring to the relations existing between the religious sections of the native community, which had been strained and which had formed the subject of a speech by Lord Lansdowne when he last visited Agra, the Corporation remarked that, thanks to the energy and decision of those responsible for the public safety, aided by the good sense of the bulk of the inhabitants, no overt acts of hostility had taken place, and the feeling on both sides was more pacific than before.

His Excellency the Viceroy in replying spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Agra,—I have to thank you for the address which you have presented to me, and for the terms in which you have been pleased to express your welcome. They are well calculated to rouse anew memories which, though thirty-two years ago I was far away; a boy at school in England, I trust I may almost claim to share with you. And, gentlemen, I may also say that if the changes which the thirty years have brought about, and to which you have drawn my attention, are such that you could scarcely have foreseen them, still less could I imagine then that I should ever come here, as my father did, to study the questions that are of interest to this great city, and to enjoy those unrivalled sights which have given it a world-wide renown.

Gentlemen,—I rejoice to observe that the record which you are able to submit is one of progress. It may be that, taken by itself, an increase of 20 per cent. in the population might not perhaps necessarily denote prosperity. It is no light matter to find food for 20,000 or 30,000 more mouths, or employment for so many extra hands; but the other facts of this case give a sufficient and a satisfactory explanation. It was one of the chief objects of my father's journey in 1863 to examine the progress of the railway which was then about to complete the communication between this city and Calcutta. Nothing has in the last thirty

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years—nothing in my opinion will have in the next thirty years—so materially affected and improved the condition of the people of the Indian Empire as the extension of its railways ; and, in respect of railways, you are able to boast of great, if not exceptional, good fortune. Already, thirty years ago, you had tasted the first fruits of railway communication. Now I suppose there are few cities in India that in this respect could compete with you. I am well aware that there is another side to this picture, and you have not omitted it from your retrospect. Increasing population and increasing prosperity must always bring increasing responsibilities to those who, like you, gentlemen, are charged with the duty of providing for the health of the community. I know also well the anxieties that arise when we see clearly the importance of taking certain steps and carrying out special works, and the means of paying the expenses are not so obvious. I am glad to see that you frankly admit what I believe to be the case, that the Government of India has dealt with Municipal bodies in this matter in a liberal spirit, and also that you recognise that the extent to which assistance can fairly be claimed must be determined by the state of the Imperial Exchequer. I need not remind you, as men of business, that when we speak of the state of the Imperial Exchequer, that does not imply merely counting the cash which may at any moment be in the Treasury, but that we have to look to other considerations, and particularly to weigh carefully the demands that have been made upon the general tax-payer. Unfortunately, during the last two years the Government of India has had to make increased demands upon the general tax-payer, and we have just seen in the last few hours how that sensitive instrument, the money market, upon which the commercial transactions of men depend, may suddenly upset the best calculations. Therefore, although I do not differ from the opinion expressed elsewhere that the financial prospects of the Government are brightening, I should be holding out false hopes if I led

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you to expect at present any material alteration in the conditions, fair and honourable as they have been, of the assistance we can offer you.

But, gentlemen, if I am obliged to say that, I hope you will not take it as sarcasm if I ask you to persevere in your patriotic efforts. I trust, from what you have said in your address, that you will be able successfully to appeal to that generous and patriotic spirit which you tell me has secured you the support of your leading citizens in the great causes of education and hospital accommodation; and perhaps I may be allowed to say, speaking on behalf of the President of the Lady Dufferin Fund—Lady Elgin—that she sincerely recognises the great efforts made here for the benefit of Indian women and their medical treatment.

Gentlemen,—I feel deeply thankful that it is not necessary for me to-day to repeat the solemn warning of my predecessor, to which you have alluded in the concluding paragraph of your address. You have given just credit to the energy of the local authorities in fearlessly carrying out the policy of impartiality, both in the tolerance of opinion and the repression of disorder which Lord Lansdowne proclaimed, and to which the Government of India unreservedly adhere; but I have equal pleasure in joining with you in placing beside the action of the Executive, as instrumental in the cause of peace, the good sense of the people, and, I would add, the efforts made in different parts of the country by leading members of the various phases of religious thought, by whom I gratefully acknowledge that much has been done to promote good-will and remove causes of strife. I trust they will never forget, but rather increasingly appreciate, how much of the responsibility lies with them.

If, as you are kind enough to wish, I should be in a position again to visit Agra, I can hope for nothing better than to be able to refer to the growth and development of this spirit of conciliation which it is the constant desire of many who love India best to foster.

BANQUET AT GWALIOR.

[The Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin, and Their Excellencies' 1st Nov. 1895. Staff, left Agra on Wednesday morning, the 30th October, and arrived at Gwalior at 1-30 p.m. on the same day. Here they were formally received by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, accompanied by the principal officers of his State and all the British officials at Gwalior. On Friday afternoon, the 1st November, His Excellency invested His Highness the Maharaja with the insignia of the G. C. S. I., and Bapu Sahib Krishna Rao Jadu (lately President of the Council of Regency) with the insignia of the K. C. I. E. The ceremony took place at the Jai Bilas Palace, and was witnessed by the Countess of Elgin, the Hon'ble Mrs. Grant, and the Ladies Bruce, a large gathering of British officials and ladies and all the representative native gentlemen of Gwalior. On the following evening the Maharaja entertained the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin, and His Highness's guests at Gwalior, numbering over eighty, at a banquet in the Palace. At the conclusion of dinner, the Maharaja appeared and took his seat near the Viceroy. The toast of the Queen-Empress was proposed by the Maharaja, after which His Highness, who spoke clearly and in excellent English, proposed Their Excellencies' health as follows :—]

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I rise to propose the health of Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Elgin, and to offer them a hearty welcome to Gwalior. I am sorry that I have been unable to show His Excellency any sport, for I had hoped to have the honour of accompanying him in a beat for tiger, but unfortunately, at this season of the year, tigers will not accommodate themselves even to a Viceregal visit. (*Laughter and cheers.*) But I trust that Their Excellencies have been comfortable during their stay at Gwalior, and that they have found other objects of interest in my capital to repay them in some measure for their visit to Gwalior. (*Cheers.*) I desire to express the high sense of honour and pleasure I feel at having received at the hands of His Excellency the Viceroy the insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, and of being enrolled as a Knight Grand Commander of that order. (*Cheers.*) It will be my earnest endeavour to show, by loyalty and devotion to the Crown of England, and by careful administration of the State of Gwalior, that I am worthy of the honour of counting myself one of the most faithful and trusty Knights of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

Your Excellency, I take this occasion to thank you and the Government of India for the honour accorded to me and my State and Army

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in allowing me to place at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for service in the late campaign on the frontier, the Gwalior Imperial Service Transport Train, and it is a source of pride and gratification to me to know that the services of the Gwalior Transport were appreciated, and that they performed with credit the duty which fell to their lot. (*Loud cheers.*) I feel pride also in having had the opportunity of commanding at the Review, which Your Excellencies so kindly attended, my two regiments of Imperial Service Cavalry; and I assure Your Excellency that, should occasion arise, I shall be as proud and as happy to lead my regiments on active service against the enemies of Her Majesty the Empress of India. (*Loud and continued cheers.*) I desire to thank the ladies and gentlemen for having accepted my invitation to be present during the visit of the Viceroy and Lady Elgin.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I now ask you to join me in drinking to the health of Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Elgin. (*Cheers.*)

His Excellency, who, on rising to reply, was received with cheers, said :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to return my best thanks to His Highness for the kind manner in which he has proposed the health of Lady Elgin and myself, and to this company for the cordiality with which they have received the toast. I have always felt that, when I came to Gwalior, I should not be regarded wholly as a stranger. There must, from the circumstances of the case, be a change at comparatively short intervals in the person charged with the duty of representing the Queen-Empress in India; but I venture to hope that the Princes and Chiefs of India recognise that the friendship formed with one Viceroy will be claimed by his successors by what I might almost term a right of inheritance. (*Cheers.*) Here, however, in Gwalior I am still more fortunate. When I arrived in Calcutta in January 1894, I found that His Highness's esteem for Lord Lansdowne—an esteem which I know was mutual—had brought him there to say good-bye. I had, therefore, the opportunity of at once laying the foundation of a personal acquaintance which I trust this week will do much to strengthen and establish. (*Cheers.*) Ladies and gentlemen, a good deal has happened since that time.

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The Maharaja was then devoting himself with characteristic energy to learning the details of certain branches of the administration and qualifying himself for the duties of the high position to which he was destined. The consequence was that when at the end of the year he attained the age at which he might fitly assume the duties of manhood, there was no dissentient voice as to the propriety of his doing so. The year that has since passed gives good hopes for the future, and I am therefore come here to convey to the Maharaja a high and distinguished mark of Her Majesty's favour in the confident expectation that he will prove himself worthy to wear it. (*Cheers.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen.—The other day as I climbed with the Maharaja the hill to the Fort and stood by his side on its ramparts, looking down, both of us, I believe, for the first time, on the beautiful scene below, could you wonder if, mingling with thoughts of the proud position and fair inheritance of my young friend, there should come to my mind the earnest hope that he would add to the honour of his name by using his great advantages for the benefit of his people? (*Cheers.*) The succession to the Chiefship of a great State like this is no light matter, and probably it has been prudent not to move too hastily; but I know from himself that he intends to persevere in the promotion of reforms, and I need not promise him every assistance when he has by him such old and trusted friends as the Resident and Colonel Barr.

Maharaja,—You have alluded in your speech to one other subject on which I know you feel keenly, and on which I am able to offer you sincere congratulations. The origin and object of the Imperial Service Troops are well known to many here present. They were intended, in the first place, as a visible token of the loyalty of India to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and, in the second place, as turning to better account the military resources of the

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States ; so that if any aggressor should threaten the peace of the Indian Empire, he would find arrayed against him the troops of the Native States as well as the regular forces for the Government. (*Loud cheers.*) Ladies and gentlemen, I need not tell you that I am as much impressed as my predecessors with the importance of thus welding together the full strength of the Empire. Nay more, I, perhaps am the first Viceroy who has been able to see at various places—at Lahore, at Agra, and now at Gwalior—the valuable material that will be at our hand in the hour of need. (*Cheers.*) Our thanks are due to the Princes and Chiefs who, with the assistance and guidance of Colonel Melliss, have done so much. (*Cheers.*) Our thanks are especially due at this moment, when we have just concluded military operations in which we know many Chiefs and their troops were eager to share. I trust they will receive from me the assurance that if, for administrative reasons, it was impossible to accept their services, it was from no doubt of their efficiency or patriotic zeal. I can well understand the keen and martial spirit that asks ‘When will my opportunity come?’ That Sindhia should wish to ride at the head of Sindhia’s Horse is in accordance with the traditions of his house. (*Loud cheers.*) But I need not use any elaborate argument to prove how great a calamity a great war would be. It is our duty as administrators of this country to be ready for war with one object only, and that is to ensure the continuance of peace (*Hear, hear, and cheers*); and I trust that the Princes and Chiefs of India, if they do not see their Imperial Service Troops going on active service, will at any rate believe that they are joining with us in securing that great and important object. (*Continued cheers.*)

But, ladies and gentlemen, on the occasion to which I refer, we were able to accept the offer which came to us from Gwalior. The circumstances of the expedition which we were obliged to send forth in the spring of this

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year were peculiar. That expedition laid no excessive strain upon our resources, but time was all-important. We had set before us that Chitral must be relieved by a certain day—a day which, I am proud to say, practically corresponded with the day on which it was relieved (*cheers*)—and the first necessity was, not the men to fight, but the means of transport. Under these circumstances the offers of the transport trains which came to us from Gwalior and Jey-pore were most acceptable, and we have had no reason to regret our decision in accepting them. As the Maharaja told me this morning, he despatched his men in forty-eight hours after the orders were received. (*Cheers.*) His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has placed on record officially his commendation of the services rendered by these two corps, and I have received from Colonel Melliss, Inspector-General of Imperial Service Troops, the following account of the work which was done by the Gwalior Transport Corps. He says :—" The Gwalior Transport Corps did excellent work on the Chitral Relief Expedition. Its 200 carts and 500 ponies carried to the front 65,000 maunds of supplies, in addition to regimental baggage and engineering stores. It lost 22 ponies only and 6 men (one killed). Both ponies and carts have returned in excellent condition, which says a good deal for its Commandant and the officers under him. (*Cheers.*) The corps worked also in pack beyond the Malakand Pass during May and June, and earned much praise from those who saw it." (*Cheers.*)

I can only say that every opinion which I have heard, or seen, corresponds with the verdict which Colonel Melliss has passed. I am not surprised that, under these circumstances, the Maharaja was resolved that no one should welcome his men on their return to Gwalior earlier than himself, and that he did not hesitate to spend the weary hours of the night on the benches of the railway station waiting for the belated train up to an early hour in the morning rather than let them return without

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his greeting. (*Loud cheers.*) I confess I have been less surprised at his energy since I learnt that he was good enough to visit the sentries of my camp at 3 a.m. this morning. (*Continued cheers.*)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have only one other duty to perform, and that is one in which you will all join most heartily. We shall all remember the princely hospitality with which we have been received here. I have alluded in the beginning of my speech to the fact that owing to the tenure of the office I hold, changes come at comparatively short intervals. It is a consequence of that, that, however pleasant the visit one pays, however agreeable the impression one carries away, it is generally impossible for a Viceroy to revisit the same scenes. In the three years that remain to me, I have many parts of this great Empire to see; much, I doubt not, to appreciate and enjoy; but I feel confident that no recollection will be more pleasing than that which I shall carry away from Gwalior, and of the agreeable companion, keen sportsman, and courteous and generous host that I have had in the Maharaja Sindhia. (*Loud and continued cheers.*) Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the health of His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior.

[The toast was very cordially received. His Highness the Maharaja again rose and thanked the guests for the kind manner in which they had received the toast, expressing a hope that they had all enjoyed their visit to Gwalior.]

BANQUET AT BHOPAL.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin and party 4th Nov. 1895. arrived at Bhopal on Monday morning, the 4th November, Her Highness the Begum, attended by her principal officials, meeting and welcoming them at the railway station. In the evening Her Highness entertained Their Excellencies and a large number of guests who had been bidden to Bhopal, at a banquet, which took place in a grand shamiana adjoining the State Bungalow, the residence of Their Excellencies. After dinner the Begum appeared veiled in a *blurka*, and in a clear, unfaltering voice, proposed the health of Lord and Lady Elgin in the vernacular, a translation of her speech being subsequently read by Colonel Newell, the Resident. Her Highness's speech was as follows :—

It is quite impossible for me to express how I appreciate the high honour paid to me by His Excellency the Governor-General of India in graciously accepting my humble invitation to my capital, and further the great pleasure I and my subjects feel at seeing Your Excellency and Lady Elgin. I feel as expressed by the verse—

“It is a wonderful work of God that he should come to my house.”

“I sometimes look at him, and sometimes at my house in wonder.”

Since Your Excellency has handled the reins of governing this vast empire of India, all the Princes and people have exulted with excessive joy, because Your Excellency, in the long roll of illustrious Viceroys, is the first to enjoy the high privilege of succeeding an illustrious father.

It is well known to Your Excellency that this part of India has, for the last two years, been exposed to much distress owing to the failure of crops, and the consequent rise in the price of grain.

My subjects have experienced great hardships, and when it was necessary to import grain, the bankers raised the rate of exchange between the Bhopali and Government rupee to nearly 30 per cent.

The opening of relief works and arranging for advances of seed grains caused heavy extra expenditure, and largely increased the duties of my officers, but my Minister and his subordinate spared no trouble in their efforts to alleviate distress and suppress crime.

But matters did not improve till the happy news of Your Excellency's proposed visit reached the country; signs of prosperity then appeared, and through the bounty of our Great Providence, the autumn crops have turned out well. After this auspicious visit of Your Excellencies, I believe the Almighty God will continue to favour us with an abundant spring harvest, and, restoring prosperity to my State, will remove the hardships and anxieties of the past years.

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Your Excellency, In spite of these difficulties, it has been my earnest wish to see the Ujjain and Bhopal Railway completed at the time of this visit, and that the opening of the line might have been honoured by your presence. It is a matter of regret that though the construction is completed, yet the line is not sufficiently secure for conveying Your Excellencies.

The emotions of faith and loyalty towards the British Crown have always been rising in my mind, and so I applied to organise regiments of Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry to serve with the Imperial Army against external aggressors. I was, however, only permitted to entertain one regiment of Cavalry, and this has been organised within the last three years. I trust Your Excellency, after its inspection, will be well pleased with all you see. The enlistment of young and robust men and the purchase of Arab horses have especially been seen to. It is now my earnest wish that Your Excellency will be pleased to permit that the regiment may be called "The Imperial Victoria Lancers."

The innumerable favours bestowed upon myself and predecessors, and the honours conferred from time to time by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, are so great I am unable to adequately express my thanks and gratitude for them, but would conclude with the verse :—

"Whose hand and whose tongue can succeed,

In quitting itself of the obligation of thanksgiving."

I fear by a protracted speech to intrude on the comforts of my honoured guests who have so kindly accepted my invitation. I will conclude with my sincere prayers that His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Elgin may, with their family, enjoy long life with daily increasing honour, health and wealth, and that much comfort and prosperity may always attend them. I would also wish to all my guests every kind of happiness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join with me in drinking the health of Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Elgin.

The toast was received with much applause.

His Excellency the Viceroy then rose and spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I rise to respond to the cordial manner in which you have received the toast of our healths, and to express my deep obligations to Her Highness for the kind words in which she has proposed it. This is not the first time on which Her Highness the Begum has welcomed a Viceroy to Bhopal and has proposed his health, and I think we may be well assured that any one who comes in the name and as the

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representative of the Queen-Empress will always be certain to find a ready and friendly welcome from the Rulers of Bhopal. In saying this I wish to draw no invidious comparison; for I have met with too much kindness from other Princes and Chiefs of India. But it is well known that to none of them will the Rulers of Bhopal yield in the loyalty which they have shown to the British Raj. (*Applause.*) I feel certain that that loyalty will not only be expressed, as it has been to-night in eloquent terms by Her Highness, but will also be manifested in action as it was the time of her predecessors. (*Applause.*) I hope that, in the circumstances of the present day, we shall never see our friend Colonel Barr forced to quit Indore; but, if he was, I have no doubt that, as a former Resident found, he also would find ready assistance from the Ruler of Bhopal. (*Applause.*) In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, we are not surprised to find that Her Highness the Begum gave a ready assent to that movement which was instituted a few years back to give expression to the loyalty of the Princes and Chiefs of India to the Crown, and that she took advantage, as she has told us this evening, of the opportunity of establishing a regiment of Imperial Service Troops. I am already in a position, from having seen the regiment on escort duty, to congratulate Her Highness on the excellent manner in which they are horsed and equipped; and I have no doubt that, in the parade to-morrow, they will give a satisfactory account of themselves, and show that they have profited by the supervision they have received from Colonel Melliss and his able assistants, to whom this movement owes so much. (*Hear, hear.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—There is another matter in which Her Highness the Begum has followed the traditions of her house. The Rulers of Bhopal have ever been well known for their charitable instincts; and Her Highness has devoted much time and money to the promotion of useful works. I think that there is only one occasion, and that

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is one to which Her Highness has alluded, on which we regret the institution of public works;—and that is when they are necessitated by a deficiency of crops, and the consequent necessity of providing for the due employment of the people, and the provision of the food which they require. I, therefore, sincerely join in the hope which Her Highness has expressed this evening that the unsatisfactory seasons of the last two years may now give way to a better prospect, and that the cultivators in this part of the country may reap the profits which justly accrue to them from the fertility of the soil.

In other respects I find it difficult to put a limit to the commendation which is due to a Ruler who devotes the revenue of the State to the promotion of works of public utility. There is only one proviso that I should make in this matter, and that is that works are undertaken with prudent foresight and economy. There is a temptation to look to the immediate benefit which accrues from the opening up of a great country, the crops of which are unable to reach the markets readily; but I think it must be borne in mind that much of that benefit will be lost if the credit of the State is endangered, and the credit of the State is for the future as well as for to-day. It is from an earnest wish to see the highest possible honour associated with the name of Her Highness that I venture to refer to a point which is sometimes overlooked, but which, most probably, she has already considered and kept in view.

Her Highness has alluded to one great work—the Ujjain Railway—in which she has taken a conspicuous interest, and over which I had at one time hoped about this time to be travelling. I have no doubt that that work will be one of great benefit to the country, and that Her Highness will derive all the profit from it which instigated her in undertaking it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Her Highness has spoken this evening of the favours which she has received from Her

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Majesty the Queen-Empress. I hope that Her Highness will believe that Her Majesty, and the Government in India which represents Her Majesty, are ever willing to recognise the good work which is done by the Rulers of the States for the benefit of their subjects; and, therefore, in thanking her once again for the kindly welcome which she has given to us, for the splendid reception which she has provided for us, and for the magnificent spectacle which we have seen in our drive to the city this evening, I should like also to express an earnest hope that she may have long life and happiness to enjoy the honours which have been so worthily conferred upon her. (*Applause.*)

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join with me in drinking to the health of Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal.

[The toast was very warmly received.]

ADDRESSES AT POONA.

9th Nov. 1895. [The Viceroy with the Countess of Elgin, the Hon'ble Mrs. Grant, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, and His Excellency's Staff, arrived at Poona on Saturday, the 9th November, at 8-30 A.M., and was received by His Excellency Lord Sandhurst and all the principal Civil and Military officials of Poona, the Gaekwar of Baroda, the Raja of Kolhapore, and a large number of Native Gentlemen. At noon on the same day His Excellency received, at Ganeshkhind, Deputations from the Poona City Municipality, and the Sarvajanic Sabha, who presented him with addresses of welcome. In welcoming Their Excellencies the Municipal Corporation said they felt they had a claim on the sympathy and support of the Viceroy, founded as it was on the connection of his father with India and the high regard in which he was held. The progress made in sanitation, water-works, and popular education throughout Bombay would show that the elective franchise was not bestowed in vain, and they felt assured that the cause of Municipal administration and education would find a sympathetic friend in Lord Elgin.

The address of the Sarvajanic Sabha, while offering a cordial welcome to Their Excellencies, was mainly occupied with questions of a controversial character. It discussed the agricultural question and re-settlement operations, forest conservancy, the Trial by Jury Bill recently introduced into the Governor-General's Legislative Council, and the differences between the Hindu and Mahomedan communities in connection with the use of music in processions.

His Excellency replied to the addresses as follows :—]

I have to thank you sincerely for the welcome which you have given me as representatives of the ancient and historic city of Poona, and of the great district of the Deccan. I believe it is well known that I welcome the opportunities which these addresses afford. I do so for a reason which is easily stated. The Sarvajanic Sabha have well described the visit of a Viceroy as a flying visit. It is, as they justly remark, impossible for him, if he is to endeavour to reach the various parts of this great Empire, to spend much time in any one place. Under these circumstances it is of primary importance to him to consider, when he visits a district, how he can best utilise the short space of time at his disposal. To my mind, one of the most

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beneficial ways in which he can do so is, in the first place, by meeting face to face with the representatives of local bodies, because after all there is a good deal in actually seeing one another; and, in the second place, that these opportunities should be used for calling his attention to any special question of local interest, on which, if at some future time it should come up to the Government of India for decision, a knowledge of the locality will be of value. I think, therefore, addresses presented to a Viceroy on occasions of this kind must aim at two principal objects: in the first place, they give the opportunity for those courteous greetings which, if you are willing to receive him, and the Viceroy is willing to come, will be readily exchanged; and, in the second place, they are fit occasions on which to put on record the special questions which those who know local interests best consider of most consequence. I am well aware that there are other questions of greater and graver interest which concern not merely the locality, but the community at large. I wish to point out that this is an inconvenient opportunity for discussing questions of that kind. I assert with some confidence that to give their true value to general statements made by bodies, however representative, when they deal with controversial topics in a short and summary manner, you must have full knowledge of the discussions that preceded the conclusions, or full opportunity of discussing them at the time. And, on the other hand, it is a painful if not intolerable position that a man replying to a welcome should be called upon to controvert facts, or challenge fallacies which he cannot accept, but equally cannot altogether ignore. Therefore, I think it is more convenient that, in the case of these larger questions of which I have spoken, if a representation to the Government is desirable, it should be made in a form that will ensure for it a full consideration, and a reasoned and deliberate reply.

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Gentlemen of the Municipal Corporation of Poona,— You have rightly conjectured that you could enlist my sympathy on the two subjects to which you have specially directed my attention,—namely, Municipal administration and education. I observe that, with regard to Municipal administration—in which I may say I am informed that you stand amongst the first—you have still before you two of the greatest problems which Municipal bodies can have to grapple with. I know that, in the discussion of the great questions of water and drainage, there is often a good deal of unnecessary heat excited and some troublesome questions may arise. I sincerely wish you well through the discussions which you say are still unfinished, and I trust they will not occur in your case in any exaggerated form. I would counsel you, if they do occur, to keep steadily before your minds that, apart from any of the manifold points of procedure, of technical detail, and even, if I might say so, of financial pressure, which may arise, you should keep always before your minds the fact that you have in your hands the life and death of your fellow-citizens, and that therefore it is your supreme duty not to imperil these great objects for any advantage of comparatively less importance. In this way you will justify the belief in Municipal institutions which you so warmly profess.

*Gentlemen,—*With regard to education, I have heard with great pleasure from your address the efforts you are making in that direction. As you have said, it is a subject to which I have paid a good deal of attention in days gone by, and which, if time and opportunity allowed, I should like very much to study in India, and to consult with those who, like you, take an interest in the subject. It is a many-sided subject ; and it is not the work of one day, or, like a work of great sanitary importance, to be solved by one plan that will last for ever ; it has to provide for every generation as one follows the other, and to meet the wants of each succeeding age. I am glad to

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learn that, here in Poona, you have recognised this fact, and have not hesitated to give to this movement the support without which it cannot succeed. I am glad also to hear that in Poona an attempt has been made to advance in one of the latest forms of educational progress—I mean technical education. This is a subject which had been before us very prominently just before I left England, and I venture to say that it is one that deserves careful attention, and is not perhaps quite so easily dealt with as some people are at first sight inclined to think. I only wish that time permitted me to study more particularly the methods you propose to adopt here to provide the beginnings at all events of this branch of study.

Gentlemen of the Sarvajanic Sabha,—You have called my attention to some of the great problems of the agricultural question in a paragraph which, if you will allow me to say so, seems to illustrate some of the inconveniences of dealing with those large questions on an occasion of this kind. You have expressed very confident opinions on some extremely controversial subjects. I have no means of knowing how these opinions were arrived at, whether after discussion or otherwise, though much might depend on that; but, in any case, it is obvious that I cannot discuss them here and now. Time would fail me even if the occasion were opportune. Let us take, for instance, an illustration. You have spoken in this paragraph of the question of re-settlement, and if I rightly understand your meaning, the natural inference from your observations is that you consider the new settlements which are continually being made to press hardly upon the people. I should be inclined to traverse that allegation altogether. I think, if I had time and opportunity, I could produce facts and figures to show that at no period in the history of India has the demand for a share in the produce of the land, to which the Government is legally and by immemorial custom entitled, been so moderate as it is at the present time. I mention this in

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order to show, with regard to this and other questions, that if I do not discuss them with you because there is no opportunity, you must not, for that reason, think I am able to accept the propositions you have set before me. All I can say is that the views which you have expressed—and I have not the slightest objection to your expressing them—will be fully considered in the course of those inquiries which the Government of India is now instituting, and of which the deputation of Sir Edward Buck, to which you have alluded, is but a part. When these inquiries are completed, I trust that the Government of India may be in a position to introduce legislation on this subject; and when we do, I hope that it will be based on the same general principle as the Forest Resolution of which you have spoken so appreciatively,—namely, that while we conserve the due rights of the State, we do all we can to protect the rights and interests of that great class of cultivators on whom the prosperity of most countries depend, and none more than India.

Gentlemen,—I can only allude very briefly to two other matters of moment to which you refer in your address. I do not think it would be proper for me to enter into any discussion of the details of a Bill now before the Legislative Council, but I may say a word or two as to procedure. I cannot help thinking that a wholly disproportionate excitement has been got up over this matter. I gather that you at all events assent unreservedly to the recommendations of the Jury Commission, and acknowledge, therefore, that reforms are desirable in the law. One point remains outside those recommendations, and on that point there is, admittedly, great difference of opinion. If the Government had ignored that point and left it out of the Bill, this difference of opinion, and all the consequences that result from differences of opinion, would have remained. The Government thought it better that this point should be carefully and deliberately con-

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sidered, and it will be carefully and deliberately considered in the proceedings of the Legislative Council. As the Honourable Member who introduced the Bill stated at the time, that is the object with which the Government have introduced this particular provision, and I venture to hope that by the co-operation of all who take an interest in the due, the efficient, but still in the conservative administration of the law, the result of the discussions in Calcutta will be that the law will be put into a shape which will meet the approval of your Sabha as well as of the rest of the community.

Gentlemen,—You have also called my attention to the differences between the Hindu and Mahomedan communities in connection with music rules in religious and other processions. Well, gentlemen, I am not here to speak *ex cathedra*, or to lay down a general rule which will be applicable in all cases. It has proved to be very difficult to ascertain and record all the varieties of custom in these matters which are found in different places. Under these circumstances, I do not see how it would be possible—indeed, I am not sure that, in any case, it would be justifiable—to do otherwise than to hold the police authorities to the responsibility which falls upon them for the preservation of the Queen's peace. But, all the same, I welcome most sincerely the emphatic declaration which the Sabha has made that the Queen's peace is an interest which concerns all. I trust that that sentiment will go forth far and wide. I venture to think that this declaration, coupled with their advocacy of conciliatory action by the leaders on both sides, is of happy omen ; and I earnestly hope that your efforts may eventually achieve the great object which is common to you and to the Government,—that is, that the time may come when police interference in religious ceremonials will no longer be required by the circumstances of the case.

Now, gentlemen, I think I have detained you long

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enough. I am well aware that there are many great questions which I have either not discussed or perhaps not alluded to. I have frankly told you why. Let me also frankly assure you that as long as I continue to hold the great office, to which by the favour of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress I have been appointed, I shall make it a point to receive and carefully consider any representation which may be sent to me by the important bodies whom I am now addressing; and, in thanking you for the good wishes expressed in the addresses which have now been read, I venture to hope that when my term of office expires, I may at least leave behind me some token of the beneficial reforms to which you have alluded. (*Applause.*)

 BANQUET AT HYDERABAD.

14th Nov. 1895. [The Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, and Their Excellencies' Staff, arrived at Hyderabad at 8-30 a.m. on Wednesday, 13th November. His Highness the Nizam with his principal officers, Mr. Plowden, Resident at Hyderabad, and his Staff, received Their Excellencies at the railway station and accompanied them to the Residency, where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Plowden during their stay. On Thursday evening, the 14th November, His Highness the Nizam entertained Their Excellencies and about 350 guests at a banquet at the Chow Mahalla Palace, the city and palace grounds being brilliantly illuminated. In proposing the health of the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin, the Nizam spoke as follows:—

"Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with great pleasure I rise again to propose the health of Lord and Lady Elgin, the distinguished guests of this evening. I alone of the rulers of Native States have had the pleasure of welcoming three successive Viceroys since my installation, thus drawing together the ties of friendship which have ever existed between the two Governments. I have much pleasure in welcoming Your Excellencies. Lord and Lady Elgin are the bearers of a name which is held in high esteem by the Princes and people of India. I trust that Your Excellency and Lady Elgin may

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carry away with you pleasant recollections of your few days' stay in Hyderabad."

His Excellency the Viceroy in responding to the toast spoke as follows:—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am greatly indebted to His Highness not only for the kind manner in which he has proposed this toast, but for the cordial and magnificent welcome which his kindness has prepared for us in Hyderabad, and to which he has now given expression in words. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not one of those who find in these manifestations nothing but formality and ceremony. No doubt our visits are, of necessity, official, and therefore it needs must be that much ceremony attends them; but, for my part, I think there is a good deal more in them than this. In the first place, I find, as a matter of course, great personal courtesy and kindness; but above and through all our relations, I think I can trace what I believe to be a universal conviction of the necessity of the maintenance of the Empire and of confidence in the Government of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress through us, who are her representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is sometimes alleged that the princes in Native States live in constant dread of an encroachment upon their prerogatives. Do not let any one believe it for a moment. It is quite true that there are imperial functions which the Imperial Government, and the Imperial Government alone, can adequately perform. If I were to sum up their supreme object in a single sentence, I should say that it was the preservation of peace. There is, of course, involved in the preservation of peace the management of all those relations on which the peace of the Empire, as a whole, depends. It is a great and ever-increasing responsibility; one that I venture to say no sane native of India would wish to entrust to other hands than those which are not only able and ready to repel foreign aggression, but to assure to the two hundred and fifty million inhabitants of this great Peninsula of India a

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security for life and property unsurpassed in any country in the world.

But, ladies and gentlemen, there is also involved in the preservation of peace the right of all the inhabitants in all parts of the Empire of Her Majesty to protection against oppression and misgovernment; for this also is one of the conditions that go to make up the general peace, because it is obvious that disorder in any part of the Empire is a danger to the peace as a whole. Unfortunately cases have arisen in which the Government of India have found that they had no alternative but to interfere; but I am glad to say that those cases are few and far between, and they do not represent, by any means, the policy which the Government of India set before them. The policy of the Government of India is not to upset ancient constitutions, but rather to conserve ancient rights and privileges; and I am glad to say that I can point to many cases where the princes of India have, on their part, shown a praiseworthy readiness to adapt their forms of government to the circumstances of the age, and to avail themselves of the assistance which the Government of India freely offers them through the able and experienced officers it deputed as Residents. Ladies and Gentlemen, there is, I am afraid, from the nature of the case, one inevitable concomitant of this process of change, or reform, to which I have referred, and that is a constant and ever-increasing demand on the energy and time of the Ruler. We all feel it in our different ways; those who are entrusted by Her Majesty with a share of the Government of the Queen-Empress; those who, like His Highness, succeed by hereditary right to great responsibilities;—none of us can altogether escape. We all of us must, I think, feel now-a-days that we shall fail absolutely in our duty if we do not see that our work is performed systematically and ungrudgingly, recognising the supreme importance of regularity and order, and the ruinous waste of inconsistency and delay.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,—The administration of a great State like this, the proper development of its industries, the due husbanding of its resources, is a task that calls for the manifestation of high qualities, and of indomitable perseverance. I am sure that all of us who are assembled here to-night as the guests of His Highness will wish, through me, to assure him of our warmest sympathy, and of our earnest hope that he will have health and strength, with the loyal and patriotic assistance of his Nobles and Ministers of State, to discharge his duties in a manner that will disarm the most unfriendly critic, encourage his friends, among whom we desire to enrol ourselves, and win for himself the gratitude and affection of his people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I will ask you to drink the health of His Highness the Nizam. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESSES AT BANGALORE.

[The Viceregal party arrived at Bangalore at 8-30 on Tuesday morning, the 19th November, Their Excellencies being received at the railway station by a large assemblage of Civil and Military officials, including Mr. Mackworth Young, the Resident in Mysore; General Sir Henry Brackenbury; Brigadier-General Gosset, Commanding the District; Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, Dewan of Mysore; and all the principal officials of the Mysore State. Their Excellencies proceeded to the Residency, where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mackworth Young. 19th Nov. 1895.]

On the following day, at 12 noon, the Viceroy received at the Residency Deputations from the Municipal Commissioners of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore, the Municipal Commissioners of the City of Bangalore, and the Kolar Gold Field Mining Board, who presented him with addresses of welcome. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Mackworth Young, Mr. Babington Smith, Colonel Durand, and other officers of the Viceregal and the Residency Staff.

The address from the Commissioners of the Civil and Military Station chiefly discussed the water-supply scheme, expressing the hope that Mr. Lee-Warner's recommendation that the scheme should be carried out and maintained for the whole of the station by the

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Government as a charge on the general revenues of the station would meet with His Excellency's approval. The Municipality would thus be enabled to carry out other projects without materially increasing the taxation. One of these was an improved system of drainage and sanitation, the urgent need for which was shown by the recent outbreak of enteric fever and cholera. It was also pointed out that the accommodation of the Bowring Civil Hospital was quite inadequate to meet the demands upon it. Attention was also drawn to the necessity for proper public offices.

The address from the Municipality of the City of Bangalore acknowledged with gratitude the Viceroy's sympathetic attitude towards the Maharani of Mysore on the occasion of the death of the late Maharaja, the prompt announcement of the succession of her son, and the appointment of Her Highness as Regent during his minority. Confidence was expressed in the administration of the Maharani, and satisfaction that the problem of a water-supply to the city had at last been successfully solved.

The address of the Kolar Gold Field Mining Board, representing the gold-mining industry in Mysore, pointed out the necessity for special legislation for the protection from theft of gold quartz, amalgam and sponge gold, and urged the appointment to the Mysore Council of a member to represent British interests in the State.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I have to thank you for allowing me to return to you collectively the acknowledgments of Lady Elgin and myself for the welcome to Bangalore, and to the State of Mysore, which you have given us in the addresses which have now been read. It is a part of our tour to which we have looked forward with an interest second to none, and the kind words which you have used to-day will only add to the pleasure which we had already anticipated. It is no doubt true that visits which are necessarily short do not give an opportunity for a man to go into the details of the circumstances of a large community, but do not undervalue the interest which is formed in anyone's mind with regard to the places which he has seen, and the persons with whom he has associated, be that intercourse ever so transient. I feel that I can promise you that in any matter which comes before me affecting the interests of Bangalore, the proceedings of to-day will not be absent from my recollection.

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Gentlemen of the Municipal Commission of the Civil and Military Station,—I hope that in what I have to say I shall show that I do not fail to appreciate your position with regard to the main subject of your address. If indeed I had only to say that the Government of India recognise the urgent need of a water-supply which is upon you, I should, as you have said, be only repeating the expressions of my predecessors in days gone by; but I am bound to say that when I first began my preparations for this visit I found that matters had very little advanced, and indeed I may say that owing to the separate action which had been taken by the Durbar for the supply to the city, in one respect your position was even less favourable than when you had an interview with Lord Lansdowne three years ago. Nay, more, when I arrived here, thinking we had come to a conclusion, and that I was the bearer of good news, I was met on the threshold with fresh difficulties, which, if they had been insurmountable, would have been the more disappointing, as my friend and colleague, Sir Henry Brackenbury, had timed his visit so as to meet me here for the express purpose of settling this long-pending question. For reasons which I will not now go into in detail, but which affect both the cost and the time required for the execution of the works, we are of opinion that the Maligal scheme is not altogether satisfactory. Fortunately there is an alternative which I believe many here have always considered preferable, and that is to obtain a supply of water from the Hassarghatta Tank. We have carefully considered the latest reports and estimates in regard to this subject, and we are convinced that this will be cheaper, will give a larger supply of water, and most important of all, a supply that, as the storage reservoir is already completed, can be made available for your wants in far less time. I have reason to hope that the Durbar will consent to this arrangement on reasonable terms. Further, I have to say that the Government of India, on

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considering the whole circumstances, and being of opinion that the dangerous state of matters now existing here must be terminated, have resolved, on certain conditions, to allow the capital cost of these works to form a charge on the general revenues free of interest. I shall not attempt to define the conditions now. They will be laid before you by the Resident. One only I shall mention. There exists here a most exceptional—I think I might almost call it a unique—tax; that is, a professional tax on soldiers. It is one which the Government have always considered very objectionable, and we must ask that this should be withdrawn once for all. But, subject to that, and to the conditions which the Resident will lay before you,—subject generally to your paying a fair proportion of the cost of maintenance and up-keep,—you will be assured of an ample supply of water; and I have every reason to believe, from the figures that have been laid before me, that the charge on your rates will not exceed, and will perhaps even be less than, the sum of 75,000 rupees which in your address you state you are willing to provide.

Gentlemen,—I hope you will recognise that the Government of India are dealing most liberally with you in this matter (*hear, hear*), and I trust that that liberality will stimulate you to greater exertions in the cause of public health. Remember that the difficulties which may delay great improvements do not excuse neglect of the means you have at hand. I think recent events justify me in repeating to you an observation which I made to the last Municipality I addressed,—namely, that the life and death of your fellow-citizens is in your hands. I do not wish to pronounce a too hasty judgment until I have before me the final result of the inquiry which is now being made into the causes of the late outbreak of cholera; but from what I have already seen, and from what you yourselves have admitted in your address, I think I may take it that your sanitary arrangements are at present inefficient and

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insufficient. I trust you will set yourselves energetically to work to put your house in order. Let the boon you are now to receive encourage you to use the other means you possess to fight the great battle against disease. You claim for Bangalore the character of a sanitarium—a popular health-resort. Let it be your care that nothing that you do, or neglect to do, will forfeit the name.

Gentlemen of the Municipal Commission of the City,— I rejoice that, in your case, the great water problem has been satisfactorily solved, and I share your regret that it is not so far advanced as to permit me to have the honour of associating myself with its formal completion. May the city enjoy to the full the benefits which you are entitled to expect from the expenditure incurred on this most important project.

I thank you, gentlemen, for recognising the deep sympathy which both Lady Elgin and I felt when the sad blow fell upon the house and people of Mysore. We should indeed have failed in our duty to the Queen-Empress had it been otherwise; but, under all the circumstances, believe me ours was no formal sorrow, but was personal, genuine, and sincere. With you I hope and believe that the arrangements made for the government of the State will prove satisfactory, and will carry on the prosperity which Mysore enjoyed under the late Maharaja.

Gentlemen of the Kolar Gold Field Mining Board,— You draw my attention to two special subjects which you consider to affect seriously the great industry which you represent. You are, I am sure from the terms you have used, well aware that in a Native State matters of this kind must, in the first place, be dealt with by the Government of the State; and from your address I gather that one of them at any rate is at the present moment under consideration. Under these circumstances it would obviously be improper for me to express any opinion on the merits of these questions at this stage, and I presume you

Addresses at Bangalore.

have brought them under my notice to-day in order that your views may be on record. Rely upon it that when the time comes these views will not be forgotten. I venture to say that the Government of Mysore is not at all likely to refuse anything that an interest so important as that which you have described can reasonably demand. I am glad to observe from your address that you do not throw any doubt upon that view of the matter. I have sometimes seen elsewhere a tendency in a powerful interest to endeavour to secure for itself a position which would make it independent of, or even permit it to oppose, the Government. I think this is a most unwise proceeding. I believe that so long as you can show results that so clearly promote the prosperity of Mysore, you can confidently trust to the fairness and good-will of the Rulers of the State. I regret very much that I cannot have the pleasure of seeing your operations with my own eyes, but that only makes me all the more grateful to you for coming here and giving me so hearty a welcome to-day.

Gentlemen all,—I have only once more to repeat my sincere thanks for your kindness to-day, and to reciprocate the good wishes which you have expressed for Lady Elgin, myself, and my family. (*Applause.*)

BANQUET AT MYSORE.

[The Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin arrived at Mysore at 21st Nov. 1895. 8-30 a.m. on the 21st November, and were received at the railway station by the Maharaja, a boy of 11, the Resident in Mysore, and all the principal officials of the State. In the evening Their Excellencies were entertained at a banquet at the Jagan Mohan Palace, a number of guests being invited to meet them. At the conclusion of dinner the Maharaja, accompanied by the Dewan, Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, K.C.S.I., appeared and took a seat near the Viceroy. After a short interval he rose amid much applause and proposed the health of the Queen-Empress. Sir Seshadri Iyer on behalf of the Maharani Regent, then proposed the health of Their Excellencies, and, in doing so, spoke as follows:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—Her Highness the Maharani Regent desires me to propose, in her name, the health of Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Elgin, and in doing so to refer briefly to the many claims which Their Excellencies have on her gratitude. Her Highness cannot forget that first message of sympathy which came from Their Excellencies to console and to comfort her in her hour of deepest affliction; and His Excellency's assurance, then given, of his special interest in her son, the young Maharaja, and in the State, has been to her the consolation which has sustained and supported her ever since. Her Highness regards His Excellency's visit at this early stage of her administration as full of the happiest augury for the continued prosperity of the State, and she feels assured that the practical insight which His Excellency will thus obtain into the affairs of the State, cannot fail to be a source of strength to her and her advisers. It is Her Highness's earnest hope and prayer that, guided by those principles of public well-being which won for His Highness the late Maharaja the approval of His Excellency's predecessors, she may be enabled to discharge the duties of the great trust committed to her in a manner calculated to secure for the State on all occasions a continuance of the good-will and the support of the British Government. Happily the system of administration in Mysore, so fully organised and successfully worked by British officers for half a century, had, under the sympathetic and enlightened rule of His Highness the late Maharaja, been carefully conserved and wisely adapted to the requirements of a progressive Native State; and Her Highness hopes that in the course of His Excellency's tour through the country and his stay among the people, he will see evidences of the constant solicitude of the late Maharaja to promote the happiness

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of his subjects, to develop the resources of the country, and to protect it, as far as possible, from the effects of those periodical failures of rain to which it is unfortunately so peculiarly liable. It will ever be Her Highness's endeavour to follow in the footsteps of her illustrious consort, and to fulfil the high responsibilities of her position, to the best of her powers and ability. Her Highness desires to take this opportunity to tender to Their Excellencies an expression of her heartfelt gratitude for the generous consideration and sympathy which the young Maharaja and herself personally have always experienced from them; and she begs to assure His Excellency of the loyal devotion of herself and her son to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress,—a devotion which, true to the traditions of the Mysore House, they cherish as their proudest possession.

"I now call upon you, ladies and gentlemen, in the name of Her Highness the Maharani Regent, to drink to the health of our illustrious guests. Ladies and Gentlemen, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin."

His Excellency the Viceroy in replying to the toast spoke as follows:—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge the eloquent and friendly manner in which this toast has been proposed, the cordial welcome to Mysore of which it is the expression, and the kind way in which it has been received by this company.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Lady Elgin and I have approached this visit to Mysore with somewhat varied emotions. For myself, standing here in the capital of this important State, I have a very vivid recollection of my first meeting with its Chief, when I set foot on the shores of India at Bombay, and I remember, as if it were but yesterday, the impression which he made upon us, not so much by the dignity of his station as by the evident and innate goodness and simplicity of his character. (*Applause.*) A few months passed and that acquaintance was renewed, and it was renewed, as this visit was already in contemplation, in the hope that the acquaintance would ripen into a closer friendship. I think I can fairly say that there were few, if any, outside the circle of those near and dear to him, on whom the shock of the news which

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startled Calcutta early on the morning of the 28th December fell more heavily than on myself. I think there were few who could feel a greater sympathy with the young Maharaja in his position, because I had had an experience from a calamity not dissimilar which occurred in India well-nigh as suddenly and as unexpectedly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—In any case the Maharani, left as she was left, would have had an overwhelming claim on the sympathies of the Viceroy, but you can readily understand how pressing that claim was upon me. I could fully realise the great anxieties which must press upon her in the arduous task which a mother's love induced her to undertake, and I also had experienced how completely a mother's love would enable her to carry it through.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I hope the arrangements which have been made for carrying on the government in the State of Mysore are such as will relieve, as much as human aid can do, the anxieties of the Maharani. She has the assistance of an able Minister, and of colleagues, men who I trust will make it their first—if I should not say their sole—object to work in harmony and carry on the government of the State for the benefit of the people, and for the good name of the Ruler. As for the Maharaja, we have to-day had the pleasure of seeing how well he has taken his part, young as he is, in the ceremonies in which he has had a share. (*Applause.*) It was with sincere pleasure that I was able to convey my congratulations to Her Highness the Maharani on the part that her son had played. All is full of promise for him. If I might say to him a word of friendly counsel, it would be, "Do not hurry to be old too fast." (*Applause.*) Every age has its duties, and I am sure that it will be the earnest wish of the best friends of the Maharaja that he should use the next few years to equip himself fully for the arduous battle of life. That is the duty which lies before him in the immediate present. It is a duty which he owes to the memory of his father

Addresses at Mysore.

and to the watchful care of his mother, and there are no two greater incentives that anyone can have. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure I speak in behalf of everyone present if I say that we are confident that if the Maharaja will strive to realise this object he will succeed, and that it is our earnest wish and prayer that he may have health and strength to strive, and to succeed. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I give you the health of Her Highness the Maharani Regent and of His Highness the Maharaja, in whom together are coupled the best interests of the State of Mysore. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

ADDRESSES AT MYSORE.

22nd Nov. 1895. [On Friday, the 22nd November, at noon, the Viceroy received five Deputations at Government House, Mysore, who presented him with addresses of welcome. The Deputations represented the Mysore City Municipality, the Mysore Representative Assembly, the Mahomedans of Mysore, the Mysore Planters, and the inhabitants of Coorg. Mr. Mackworth Young, the Resident, Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary, and other officials were present. The subjects of the addresses will be apparent from His Excellency's reply, which was as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I am glad to recognise and acknowledge as running through all the addresses which have been read here this morning a sentiment of warm and, I may say, affectionate loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. It is a sentiment which you will see must be deeply gratifying to me who come here as Her representative, but it is especially gratifying, I think, from the circumstance of your connection here in Mysore with British rule. You have, through a long series of years, known from experience what British administration means. You also, by the sure proof of the Act of Rendition, are well aware that the British Government is ready and willing to put full confidence in a Native administration. I, therefore,

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welcome loyal expressions from bodies who, like you, have so good cause to appreciate the justice and fair dealing which are the principles which underlie British government in India.

To those of you, gentlemen, who especially represent Native interests in Mysore, may I say a word more particularly personal to myself? I have been deeply touched since I entered the State by the constant references that have been made to certain small tokens of sympathy which Lady Elgin and I were able to offer on the occasion of the death of your late Maharaja. I have had an opportunity elsewhere of saying what were the feelings which that sad event excited in us, and I will not trouble you by any repetition. Let me say in a word that I only spoke what I felt, that I promised nothing I am not prepared to act up to, and that my best reward will be if I am able to be of any service in future to the family of Mysore. (*Applause.*)

Gentlemen of the Municipality of Mysore,—To you, as representatives of this ancient city in which we now find ourselves, I owe one word of special thanks for the splendid welcome which you have given us. The eager demeanour of the people in your streets is, I think, a living testimony to your statement of the interest taken by them in our coming amongst you, and to you and to them we are most grateful. I should like to add a word of appreciation of the demonstration made on our arrival by the schools. Nothing could be more pleasant than the hearty manner in which they all joined in it, and the numbers of children that were present spoke well for the educational equipment of the coming generation in this place.

Gentlemen of the Representative Assembly,—You have made some just remarks on the wisdom displayed by His Highness the late Maharaja in seeking to promote a community of interests between the Government and the governed. He showed, I think, a true instinct in making the best use of institutions which had the sanction of the ancient

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traditions and customs of the country. What I would wish to point out to you is that you owe it both to your gratitude to him and to your loyalty, which you rightly and warmly profess to Her Highness the Maharani Regent, to do all in your power to justify his experiment by showing that it is not incompatible with the altered conditions of things. I venture to think that this is a time when the first thought of every loyal citizen in Mysore must be to do everything in his power to assist the administration of the Maharani Regent in every possible way. Difficulties there may be which will have to be faced in the future, but, for the present, it is the duty of everyone, from the highest to the lowest, to smooth the difficulties away, and assuredly you will not fail to respond to the call thus made upon you.

Gentlemen,—I should like to say that I entirely agree with you that one of the most important and interesting matters in this State in the immediate future is the education of your young and promising Maharaja. I am sure that Her Highness knows well that she has only to ask in order to receive from me every assistance which it would be in my power to give her in a matter so fraught with all-important consequences to the future welfare of the State. *{Applause.}*

Gentlemen of the Mahomedan Community,—I am greatly obliged to you for the kindly reference you have made to the distance we have had to travel in order to visit this interesting city. I have often thought that people in England do not recognise what those distances are; but I confess I have some compunction in seeing a reference to them in the same address that makes reference to those long and toilsome pilgrimages which you, gentlemen, in the exercise of your religious duties, undertake. I am exceedingly glad to know that you approve of the efforts which the Government of India have made to ameliorate the conditions under which those pilgrimages

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are made. Whether we shall succeed in doing all that we should wish to do I cannot yet say, but I would fain hope that no doubt remains in the minds of the Mahomedans of India that from us they need expect nothing but sympathy and an honest endeavour to serve their best interests. (*Applause.*)

To you, gentlemen, who represent the European Planters of Mysore, I am much indebted for the suggestion that on the subjects which will be referred to on another occasion in an address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India, there should to-day be no discussion. It is certainly very much more convenient for me, and I hope not inconvenient to you. In regard to the other topics more especially pertaining to Mysore, I think you will gather from what I have already said this morning, that, so far as I am concerned,—it does not altogether, I may say, rest with me,—I should deprecate any attempt to form a Legislative Council under the existing circumstances of Mysore. I am not prepared to say whether the analogy of a province of British India could, or could not, be followed with advantage in a Native State. I have my doubts. But of this I have no doubt, that if a new departure is to be taken, it is essential that the administration should be in strong hands, preferably those of a capable Ruler who is himself the rightful Chief of the State.

Gentlemen,—I think I shall respond best to the friendly way in which you have left your interests in my hands if I say frankly that, doing my best to look at this matter from your own point of view, I should be inclined to have some doubt as to the expediency of your advocacy of this measure. On a recent occasion at Bangalore I took the opportunity to indicate the relations which, in my judgment, ought to subsist between a great commercial interest and a Government, especially the Government of a Native State, and I cannot help feeling that it would be

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possible, if you gained a single vote in the Government itself, you might lose more than you would gain.

Gentlemen of the Province of Coorg,—To you I owe a very special word of thanks for taking the trouble to come here from your own Province to meet me to-day. The absence of railway communication, on which you comment, must make it difficult for you to come, as it makes it difficult for me to go to visit you. Everything comes to him who waits; and I would venture to hope that the time will come when you will welcome a Viceroy to your beautiful and interesting Province. In the meantime, let me assure you that the affairs of your Province will not be neglected. I agree with you that it is impossible for me to discuss with you the details of the various matters affecting your interests on which you touch in your address; but I would point out that in Mr. Mackworth Young you have a sympathetic Chief Commissioner, and I am certain that if, when he visits you, he finds any of these or other subjects to be such as to call for my attention, he will make a full representation of your case, and if he does he will not find in me an unwilling listener.

I would only say one word more with regard to another matter mentioned in your address, and that is to express a slight feeling of surprise at the request which you have made for a member on the Viceroy's Legislative Council. I confess I should have thought that the expense and inconvenience of attendance in Calcutta would have greatly limited the choice of candidates in Coorg; but putting that aside, I think you can scarcely be aware that the number of seats on the Council is small and is strictly limited. Undoubtedly it is open to the Viceroy for a certain very limited number of seats to nominate gentlemen of eminence from any part of India, but I think you will see that to allot a special seat to Coorg would be unfair to larger and more populous provinces.

Addresses at Trichinopoly.

Gentlemen,—I have endeavoured shortly, in the brief time available to me, to touch upon any matter in the addresses presented to me on which I thought any observations or any answer from me could be of use to you. I have only now to repeat to you all my best thanks for the kind welcome you have given us to Mysore, and to assure you of the great interest which we expect to derive from our stay amongst you, and in thanking you for the good wishes expressed for myself and my family, I beg in return to offer you my best wishes for the continued prosperity of the State of Mysore. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESSES AT TRICHINOPOLY.

[The Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, and 2nd Dec. 1895. their Excellencies' Staff arrived at Trichinopoly on Monday morning, the 2nd December, and were received at the railway station by Mr. Andrew, the Officiating Collector, and the principal civil and military officials. The Raja of Pudukotta and a number of native gentlemen were also present. Their Excellencies and party were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew during their stay at Trichinopoly. The Viceroy spent the afternoon in visiting the Central Jail, the College of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, St. Joseph's College, and in receiving at the Town Hall addresses of welcome from the Municipal Council of Trichinopoly and the Reception Committee. The addresses drew attention to the important and historic character of the town, which was second only to Madras in population and importance, and contained the house once occupied by Clive, and the remains of the palace of the ancient Chola dynasty. The Municipal Committee expressed pleasure at the presence of Lady Elgin, who was the first Viceroy's wife to visit Trichinopoly. The town was in want of a water-supply and complete drainage system which they hoped would soon be provided. The Reception Committee remarked that Trichinopoly had been the home of the greatest Tamil poet and poetess a thousand years ago; it was here that the first of the Nayadu dynasty established his kingdom; here that the great struggle for ascendancy between the English and French took place; and it was in this district that the waters of the Cauvery river were first

Addresses at Trichinopoly.

controlled by the genius of Sir Arther Cotton, who constructed the anicut.

His Excellency replied to the address as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—The welcome which you have given to Lady Elgin and myself, and, if I may say so, more especially the kind words which you have spoken of Lady Elgin and her visit to this great city in the south of India, have been most gratifying; and the addresses which have just been read present in themselves features which cannot, I think, fail to impress us. You have reminded me of the ancient glories of this great city which has outlived so many vicissitudes in the fortunes of men, while maintaining its importance as one of the principal centres of this part of India. You have advanced claims to prominence in politics and in literature before any Englishman came amongst you, and you have in terms of some cordiality named the great Englishman whose residence here is held in honourable remembrance, and I think I may say you have associated yourselves with those deeds of arms which made his name, and the British name, famous in the south of India. Finally, you have recalled with pleasure the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the son of the noble Sovereign whose rule has brought with it countless blessings to the people of India.

I am tempted to trace in this sequence of events some explanation of the welcome which you have given us to-day.

I cannot appeal to you in the name of your ancient Chola dynasty, nor can I quote to you from your Tamil poets. I cannot come here, as Clive came, with laurels of victory on his brow, but I do come as the representative of the Queen-Empress; and I believe, gentlemen, I am welcomed because the rule of the Queen-Empress means to you justice and peace. Would it have been the same if British rule in India spelt oppression, or the lot of the Indian ryot was misery and starvation? I give you as citizens of no mean city, more credit for independence of spirit and self-respect, and knowing as I

Address from the Srirangam Municipality.

do the kindly sentiments which unite the European and Native subjects of Her Majesty; being sure, as I am, that the lot of the Indian cultivator, toilsome though it is and must be, is not one of despair, I am encouraged, when I meet with expressions of confidence from large communities such as this, to persevere in the task which has been entrusted to me, and which cannot, I think, be better described than in the words which you yourselves have used,—namely, to design, so far as may be in my power, measures of beneficence for the welfare and prosperity of the land which I have been called upon to govern.

Gentlemen,—I have only to thank you most sincerely for your words of welcome, and for your kindly and sympathetic addresses, and to wish to you of the Municipality of Trichinopoly strength to continue in the good works you have in hand; and to all you who are connected with this ancient city, that prosperity which your long traditions are well calculated to entitle you to expect. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS FROM THE SRIRANGAM MUNICIPALITY.

[The Viceregal party spent Tuesday morning, the 3rd December, 3rd Dec. 1895. in visiting the Rock of Trichinopoly and the Srirangam Temple. At the entrance to the latter His Excellency was presented with an address of welcome by the Municipal Council of Srirangam. They referred with pride to their island town with its picturesque scenery, its luxuriant gardens and verdant fields, and its sacred temples which are resorted to by pilgrims from all parts of India. They were grateful for the elective franchise, and assured the Viceroy that the local self-government introduced by Lord Ripon was fully appreciated by the people; owing, however, to circumstances, the necessary reforms had not yet been effected, but they looked to the paternal care of Government for the nourishment of the plant.]

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—I have to thank you for the welcome you have given to Lady Elgin and myself to this interesting spot. From what I have seen from a distance, from the

Address from the Srirangam Municipality.

Rock which overhangs your buildings, and from the drive through your beautiful island, and also from what I have seen of the Temple itself, I think that you may justly claim the encomium you have pronounced in the address which you have just read. I can only say that I have approached with great respect a place which has all the sanctity that has been given to it by great antiquity and by the high veneration in which it is held by large numbers of our fellow-subjects in India, who will in a few days, I understand, throng your temple courts.

This fact leads me to the other subject which you have mentioned in your address. I am not going to give you a lecture on local self-government; but this concourse of people of which I have spoken imposes upon you very serious duties connected with local self-government. I confess that I look with some jealousy on too great stress being laid on the privileges, without a corresponding stress being laid on the duties, of local self-government; and, judging from the words you have used, I think I do you no injustice when I say that, to some extent at any rate, there are duties which still remain to be performed. I venture to say for my friend and predecessor, Lord Ripon, that, in introducing local self-government, he looked chiefly, not to granting privileges, but to impressing upon those best acquainted with the wants of the people the duty of seeing that those wants were supplied; and I trust that, even if your resources are limited, you will not hesitate to use those resources for the benefit of your community. I am certain that a plant derives more of its strength from the fibre in itself than from any adventitious or foreign aid from the watering-pot.

Gentlemen,—I have only again to thank you for the welcome you have given to us, and to express the interest with which I have visited this great shrine this morning.
(*Applause.*)

ADDRESS AT MADURA.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin, and party arrived at Madura on Wednesday afternoon, the 4th December, at 4 o'clock. Mr. Twigg, the Collector, and the local officials were at the railway station to receive them. The afternoon was spent in visiting the Temple, the Palace, and other places of interest; and at the *Teppakulam*, or raft bungalow, where dinner was served, His Excellency was presented with an address of welcome by the Municipal Council of Madura. The address dwelt upon the historical and archæological features of Madura in the hope that this would be in harmony with the spirit which led the Viceroy to honour Madura with a visit—that hereditary antiquarian spirit which would always attach itself to the descendants of him who rescued the Elgin Marbles from destruction and made them a gift of joy for all time. His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen,—When we left the heights of Simla, we left hills down which already the snow was beginning to creep, and during the six weeks which have elapsed since then we have passed through many districts, and have now reached a place in which I suppose snow is unknown. We have now arrived at the most southern point in our wanderings, and though there is still more work to do before our tour is completed,—for I may tell you that a tour is not only a pleasure excursion, but involves a good deal of solid labour,—when we turn our backs on your hospitable city, and the welcome which you have so cordially given to us, we shall be retracing our steps towards the north in order to resume there those duties which can only be performed when the members of the Government are assembled in one place. Gentlemen, I have not alluded to the distance which we have come to magnify in any way the effort we have made to pay you a visit; but I have done it for two reasons: in the first place, to assure you that though we may be far away you must not suppose that your interests are neglected or overlooked. It is sometimes alleged that districts which are far distant from the capital seat of Government are ant to

Address at Madura.

be neglected in comparison with those which are nearer at hand. I do not believe that is the case. In the first place, we have the opportunity which these tours present to us—and it is a valuable opportunity—of making ourselves acquainted at any rate with the country in which you dwell, and of thereby attempting to enter into your feelings; but, besides that, I think we should be failing in our duty if we did not, even in the absence of the personal acquaintance which a tour affords, give a due amount of care and attention to the study of questions affecting your interests which come before us, and I believe that in these matters the Government of India has a very good record. In the second place, I have alluded to coming from a distance in order to assure you that I greatly appreciate your kindness in referring to the hereditary interest which I have in buildings of antiquity and in archæological matters. When I was first contemplating a visit to southern India, I set before myself as an object, which I should only omit with the greatest possible regret, a visit to Madura and its famous temple. No doubt in the few—I was going say hours, but it has resolved itself almost into minutes,—in the brief period of our visit here, we have not been able to give to the study of those great buildings of which you are so justly proud, that attention which they deserve, and which would enable us thoroughly to appreciate and understand them; but at any rate we shall carry away with us a very lively recollection of the interest which they have afforded, and the address which you have just read will serve as a concise memorandum of what we have seen on the spot to-day.

Gentlemen,—I think I may justly say that the spirit which animated my grandfather in saving from destruction the Elgin Marbles is also alive amongst you here, in that you have set before yourselves the duty of conserving for those who come after you the works of those who have gone before. In the case with which my ancestor's name

Address at Tanjore.

is connected it was necessary, in order to carry out that great undertaking, to remove and deposit in a safer place those great works of art. Here you are fortunate enough to be able to preserve them in their own locality, and I earnestly hope that you, and those who come after you in this place, will persevere in the good work and maintain those great temples in the state of preservation in which they are found to-day.

Gentlemen,—I thank you very much for your kind wishes regarding Lady Elgin and myself on the occasion of our visit here, and also for the loyal sentiments contained in your address; and in conclusion I have only to wish continued prosperity to you and to the town of Madura.

ADDRESS AT TANJORE.

[The Viceregal party passed through Tanjore early on Thursday 5th Dec. 1895. morning, the 5th December, and spent some three hours in seeing the Temple, the Palace, and other objects of interest. At the railway station Their Excellencies were received by Mr. Gabriel Stokes, the Collector of Tanjore, and a large number of civil and military officers and ladies, besides the members of the Tanjore Royal Family, and a deputation of the Municipal Council, who presented an address of welcome. This was the second occasion, it was remarked in the address, on which a Viceroy had visited Tanjore. Unlike other towns through which His Excellency had passed, Tanjore could not boast of being a rising place with an increasing population, or a flourishing trade or industry, but it was peculiarly interesting on account of the relics it possessed of a past government and civilisation. "Melancholy," it was remarked, "though the contemplation of past greatness might be, yet it was a source of consolation that the pomp and splendour of oriental rule had given place to the more solid blessings of peace and prosperity conferred on them by the benign British Government and Western civilisation." His Excellency replied to the address as follows:—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee,—I confess that I always hear with some regret any reference to melancholy connected with memories of a great past. If I

Address at Tanjore.

might be pardoned for introducing an individual experience on an occasion of this kind, I would say that in my own family we have a motto which calls to our minds similar recollections, and we have always been taught to look at that, not with feelings of vain regret, but as stimulating us to resolute action in the circumstances in which we may by the changes of time be placed, and to do our duty now, as our predecessors have done it in the days gone by. I cannot but think that what is true of an individual or family may also, with proper changes, be applicable to a community like yours, and I should hope that if you face your altered circumstances like men, there may still be a bright future for the town of Tanjore not unworthy of its greatness in former times. You at any rate, in what you have said, have shown that you recognise that if oriental pomp is not your lot to-day, you do share with the rest of the Empire in the blessings of peace and prosperity which are brought by British rule. (*Applause.*)

Gentlemen,—I think you will recognise that on this occasion and at this hour, and with the very limited time at our disposal, it will not be expected that I should detain you here with any lengthened observations. We have come to see those interesting sights which your town can offer, and with your permission we will now proceed to do so. I can only say that an address of welcome couched in the loyal and cordial terms of yours certainly calls for no apology from you, and I can assure you that I shall carry away with me the warmest recollection of your kind words and good wishes for Lady Elgin and myself.

ADDRESSES AT MADRAS.

[On Friday morning, the 6th December, at 11 o'clock, several deputations waited on the Viceroy at Government House, Madras, and presented him with addresses of welcome, dealing with a number of important questions. His Excellency was accompanied by Lord Wellock, Governor of Madras, and Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy. The deputations represented the Municipal Commission of Madras, the Chamber of Commerce, the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association, the Central Mahomedan Association, the Native Christian Association, the Pariah Mahajana Sabha, the Madras Landholders' Association, and the United Planters' Association of Southern India. With the exception of those from the Municipality and the Chamber of Commerce, all the addresses were taken as read. The subjects discussed in the addresses will be apparent from His Excellency's replies.

In replying to the address from the Municipal Commission of Madras His Excellency said :—]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have to express the great gratification which I feel in meeting here to-day the representatives of a city which has held so distinguished a place in British India, and I have to thank you for the kindly expressions of good feeling towards myself which you have embodied in the address which has just been read. Travelling during the last few days through this Presidency I have been much struck by the eager interest which was taken in our progress at all the places which we have passed through, and I cannot help connecting it with the claim which you put forward to conspicuous loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, which I am glad to see you look upon as a tradition in this place and which you are determined to cherish and maintain.

Gentlemen,—It would have afforded me much gratification if circumstances had permitted me to connect my name, in however small a degree, with any part of the work which you have in hand for the wellbeing of your community. I, as you know, have taken great interest in work of this character, and I am glad indeed to hear that you see your way, in spite as I know of somewhat

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unfavourable circumstances, to grapple with the difficulties and to study the convenience and health of this great city. It is a worthy aim, I venture to say, for your aspiration to lead the way in this Presidency in the friendly rivalry which you have professed in your address.

I confess, gentlemen, that when I proceed farther and hear an application, however indefinite, for help as well as sympathy from the Government of India, I am not quite so sure of the extent to which I can commit myself to any promise. I venture to think that when you translate sympathy into material assistance, you really put your hand into another pocket; and as I dare say most of you are general tax-payers, you will readily understand that it is the duty of my acute and distinguished colleague in charge of the finances of India very carefully to criticise any applications for material assistance from Imperial funds which come to him from local bodies. I think that any application which the local authority may see fit to send forward must fulfil at any rate three conditions; in the first place the Imperial exchequer must be overflowing; in the second place the local need must be very urgent and very overwhelming, and must show some cause for material assistance from outside; and, in the third place, it must be clearly demonstrated that it will not conflict unfairly with other claims from other places. Whether you have any application in view which could meet all these conditions I am not aware; but I venture to think that it is wisest in local bodies to look, in the first place, to developing their own resources. I am very glad to see from the terms of your address that you look forward in this respect with hope, and I share with you the expectation that your city will continue to derive increased prosperity from the continuous development of the country which I trust will be realised in many ways in the years that are to come.

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Gentlemen,—I have to thank you in Lady Elgin's name for the kindly reference which you have made in your address to her visit here, and I have only in conclusion, on her behalf and mine, to acknowledge the cordiality of your welcome and your kindness in coming here to meet me to-day.

ADDRESSES FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND EURASIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION,
MADRAS.

[To the addresses from the Chamber of Commerce and Anglo-Indian Association of Madras, His Excellency replied as follows :—] 6th Dec. 1895.

Gentlemen,—I have to return you my thanks for allowing me to acknowledge together the kindly expressions of welcome to myself, and of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose representative in India I have the honour to be, contained in your two addresses.

There is also one other subject that is mentioned in these addresses which is common to both, and if I do not propose to reply in detail to the arguments which are put forward, more especially in the address of the Chamber of Commerce, for the appointment of an Additional Judge of the High Court, it is not only for the simple reason that on the main facts of the case there is really no dispute between us, but also that some of the announcements that have appeared on this subject are altogether premature.

There seems to be an impression in some quarters that the Government of India are inclined to minimise the inconvenience from which you suffer in this matter. It is one of the difficulties of taking up a question of this kind on tour that I am unable to have those few minutes of conference with my colleagues which would set at rest any doubt which I may have on any particular point of detail; but all I can say is that I can find no trace of any such inclination. If indeed it was the case that the time of highly-

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paid Judges was much occupied by cases of a comparatively trivial nature, it would no doubt be a matter of some serious consequence, for which we should attempt to find a remedy. Undoubtedly the best remedy for an evil of that kind would be if the people of India could be induced to curb what I may term their excessive fondness for litigation; but I am rather inclined to think that that remedy is almost as hopeless as it used to be said to be in the case of my own countrymen in Scotland. I find, however, that there do exist very considerable legal difficulties in carrying out your wishes in this matter which I cannot enter into now, but which must be left for the decision of the Secretary of State. Our position, therefore, is simply this,—that we recognise entirely that the state of the Cause List in the High Court of Madras is one which calls for a remedy, and our wish is to deal with it as effectually and as speedily as the circumstances will admit.

Gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce,—The other main subject to which you refer in your address is one on which I venture to think you ought to be content to accept the verdict of the Government of India, I mean the question of the particular point at which the division of the new East Coast Railway should be made for working purposes. I do not know if you go so far as to commit yourselves to the doctrine that all the railways within a Presidency or a Province should be managed within the Presidency or Province itself. It would, I believe, be an entirely novel doctrine, and I venture to think that it would be altogether unworkable. In this case the point of division which we have named is one which in the opinion of my honourable colleague in charge of the Public Works Department, who is admirably qualified to give an impartial opinion on this question, is a fair one in itself and one which is favourable to Madras in that it reserves within the Southern Division the access to the two ports on the coast which may in the future be developed for the

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promotion of the trade of the Presidency. It is not as if there was only one side to this question, gentlemen, for I can assure you that we have had strong representations made to us from the other end of the line in Calcutta that the northern section should extend at least as far south as Bezwada. I believe the division at Vizianagram might be called a good compromise, but I do not put it forward as a compromise but as being recommended as good in itself. I should also add that it is one that would fit in well with other schemes for railway development not wholly confined to the Presidency of Madras which will assuredly sooner or later follow upon the completion of the East Coast Railway itself.

Finally, gentlemen, I would venture to ask you to have some confidence in the Government of India that in any arrangement for the management and working of these lines they will make it their duty to see that the interests of the various parts of the country through which the line passes, and of the traders served by the line, will be subjected to no unfair treatment or undue preference.

And now, gentlemen, before leaving that subject, I should like to express just one word of satisfaction in feeling that I may have, in however small a matter, contributed to the realisation of what you have described as a great advantage to the City of Madras. When my noble friend paid me a visit in Calcutta soon after my arrival, one of the subjects which he particularly brought under my notice as of great interest to the Presidency was the completion of the East Coast Railway, and it has been extremely gratifying to me that on my coming here on this occasion to see him, before he to your great regret leaves you, I have come with the assurance that that object will be realised. I trust that its construction will now be pushed on as rapidly as circumstances will admit ; in fact, I may confess that I have a humble ambition of my own,—and I am told that it is perhaps not altogether a vain one,—and that is that I

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might perhaps be present before leaving India at the opening of the through line between Madras and Calcutta. I do not know if that event will turn out to be impossible, but at any rate I have said enough to show you the direction in which my sympathies lie.

Gentlemen of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association,—There is only one other special subject mentioned in your address upon which perhaps you will expect me to say a word. It is a subject which you also represented to my predecessor, Lord Lansdowne, when he came here, and I am afraid that I have really nothing to add to what he then said to you. Now, as then, we have to consider any proposals for admissions to the army with reference not only to their social and political aspects, but also with regard to their cost and to their results in adding to the military strength of the Empire. I appreciate entirely the loyal and patriotic spirit which prompts you to call for enrolment in the army and which leads so many of you to join the ranks of the Volunteers, but I must confess that as yet no scheme has been propounded which would meet the conditions prescribed by Lord Lansdowne, and I have thought I should be dealing in a more friendly manner with you by telling you this frankly, than by holding out any indefinite promises or hopes which, with the best will in the world, I do not see any immediate prospect of being able to fulfil.

In the meantime I welcome the statement made in your address regarding the increasing prosperity of your Association. The objects you have set before yourselves are both useful and commendable, and I feel sure you can in no better way increase your hold on the sympathy which is widely and deeply felt by all of us in India, than by combining as you do in this Association for the promotion of everything which tends to your social advancement and to the wellbeing of your community.

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Gentlemen,—I have now touched upon the particular subjects mentioned in the addresses which have been presented to me, and I have only in conclusion once more to thank you for coming here to-day and for the very kind manner in which you have greeted me.

ADDRESSES FROM THE MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION,
THE NATIVE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE
PARIAH SABHA, MADRAS.

[To the addresses from the Mahomedan Association, the Native Christian Association, and the Pariah Mahajana Sabha of Madras, 9th Dec. 1895. the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—In replying to the addresses which you have been kind enough to present to me, and which you have given [me an opportunity of] seeing before this meeting; and which, therefore, with your consent, have been taken as read, I have to thank you for allowing me to acknowledge to you all at once the welcome which you have extended to Lady Elgin and myself, for which we are most grateful, and, also for those expressions of loyal devotion to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress which I find in your addresses. I venture to think that it will not detract from, but will rather enhance, the value of these declarations of yours that I should be able to refer to them in one reply as expressing a sentiment common to you all.

There is one other subject which to my mind is a common interest of all your communities now represented here, though it may be brought forward in your addresses from somewhat different points of view. I mean the great question of education.

You, *Gentlemen* of the Mahomedan community, have called my attention, as other similar bodies of your co-religionists have done, to certain drawbacks which you look upon as a grievance.

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You, Gentlemen of the Pariah Mahajana Sabha, though you have not specially touched upon this matter in your address, do, I think, include it in the reference you have made to the kindly interest taken in your welfare by His Excellency Lord Wenlock; and you, Gentlemen, who represent the Native Christians, have emphatically shown the great store which you set on the progress which you have made in educational work. What I desire to say to you all is this, that in my opinion, in the circumstances in which each of your communities is placed, there is no more potent agent for the amelioration of your condition than education. Is it that you feel at a disadvantage in the competition for political influence or political employment? Is it that, as a class, you acknowledge a sense of social inferiority? Is it that you feel yourselves brought under new moral, social, and educational influences? I regard education as the source of the progress which you either are making or must make. But then it is of no use talking of the advantages to be derived from education or of appealing to Government or anybody else to help you to get these advantages, unless you seek them in the right way. For instance, I distrust appeals in reference to examinations which leave out of sight the primary object of all examinations. The public service requires that men who enter it should possess certain qualifications, and the object of an examination is to see that they do possess them. It is no reason for an alteration in the prescribed test that certain candidates have to exert themselves more strenuously than others to pass it, though it may be a reason for asking for assistance for those who are prepared to make the effort.

Then, again, what is the meaning in these days of a class being subject to enforced social inferiority? That could only be the case, I take it, if the class was not prepared to do something to raise itself. I do not believe that even here in India, where I admit the circumstances are more

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difficult than elsewhere, that social inferiority could be permanently maintained in the face of proved mental or moral equality or superiority. I am therefore very glad to see that there is a marked increase in the number of pariah schools—an increase which I believe during the last year amounted to the large number of 150 schools and something like 4,000 pupils. I think that this shows conclusively that the Government is not slow to help those who are willing to be helped, or to help themselves. And Associations like these which I am addressing have peculiar opportunities for promoting the cause of education. I trust that you will not neglect those opportunities. I hear with pleasure of industrial and technical education, of young men studying medicine, and perhaps I may be allowed to add on behalf of the Lady President of the Dufferin Fund, of young women qualifying themselves to take part in the work of bringing medical aid to the women of India.

Gentlemen,—Of the subjects which are specially referred to in the several addresses there are few that I could in any case reply to effectively. I think that when reference is made to points of detail or matters that fall distinctly within the cognisance of the Local Government, the object is rather to call my attention to them than to elicit any expression of opinion upon them. This is particularly the case with regard to the address of the Central Mahomedan Association, and there is only one paragraph of it with regard to which I should like to say a word—the paragraph in which you state that you have observed with regret the failure of all attempts to compose the angry feelings whence religious riots flow. I do not know how you have arrived at that conclusion, but I am bound to tell you that I do not agree with you. I have said before, and I repeat now, that praiseworthy and successful efforts have been made in many parts of the country to compose those angry feelings and to bring about concord between the two

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religious communities. The Government have no intention of undertaking what, in the face of the circumstances as you describe them, I will call the somewhat quixotic task of attempting to reconcile the differences of both parties by a legislative measure ; but they do intend, as they have frequently stated, sternly to repress disorder, from whatever side it may come, and they also count with confidence on the assistance of all loyal citizens, amongst whom I number those present to-day, to promote by every means in their power the peace and good-will which you and all of us wish to see in this country.

Gentlemen of the Pariah Sabha,—You have in your address stated that you are aware that your interests are in the hands of the Local Government, and this means that they are in friendly and kindly hands. You may rely upon it that if any case arises in which it is necessary for the Government of India to be consulted, we should cheerfully support the Madras Government in the efforts they are making for the amelioration of your condition. For myself, all that I think I need say to-day in response to one paragraph in your address is that if here, or hereafter, I should be able in any way to be of service to you, I shall not forget the appeal which you have made to me to-day.

To you, Gentlemen of the Native Christian Association, I have only, in addition to what I have already said in reference to your work in the course of my speech, to offer my congratulations on a very remarkable record of progress. I do not think it is inconsistent with the strict impartiality which it is my bounden duty to observe between all religions in this country, to express my gratification at finding the natives of India who embrace the religion which I myself profess, qualifying themselves for good and useful lives. You have spoken of the benefit which some of your number have received from the educational work of missionary agencies. I should just like to say that in the last few days I have seen instances of

Address from the Madras Landholders' Association.

schools crammed to the doors with pupils of every denomination, evidently in the full confidence that no undue influence will be brought to bear upon them by the Christian men in charge of these institutions. I agree with you that in this respect a true, good, and philanthropic work is being done.

Gentlemen,—I thank you very much for your presence here to-day and for the welcome which you have given me to the Presidency of Madras.

ADDRESS FROM THE MADRAS LANDHOLDERS'
ASSOCIATION.

[To the address from the Madras Landholders' Association, the Viceroy replied as follows:—] 9th Dec. 1895.

Gentlemen,—I have to thank you as representatives of the landholders of this Presidency for your courtesy in coming here to-day, and for the cordiality of the welcome which you have given to Lady Elgin and myself.

The first subject to which you call my attention in your address is, I find, the law regarding the succession to zemindari estates, and I should like at once to explain that you will of course understand that, in anything I say here to-day, I must put aside altogether any criticism which you have therein made of the action taken, or opinions expressed by the Madras Government. It would evidently be improper for me in this house, and in the presence, which I am glad to have, of my noble host, to make any comment on any criticisms of the kind, especially as it is a matter which is still under discussion and is a part of a great and complex question. At all times and in all countries the questions relating to the tenure of land, to the preservation of the just rights of the various classes connected with its ownership or occupation, and to the necessity in the public interests of securing so far as possible the best

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possible results from its cultivation—these are questions which have taxed the utmost ingenuity of the wisest statesmen, and certainly they are nowhere more complicated and difficult than in India, and nowhere would it be more improper to come to, or announce any rash, hasty, or ill-considered conclusion. But, on the other hand, I wish to say that it can only be of assistance to the Government of India to receive from any body interested as you undoubtedly are in great questions connected with the land, a full, careful, and temperate statement of your case, and of the remedies which you might be able to suggest for meeting any grievances of which you may complain. It is by the collation of statements such as this that the Government of India hope eventually to arrive at a conclusion as to what can be accepted and what must be rejected. It is not possible for me at this stage of our investigation to tell you what the fate of your proposals might be when tested, but I do say I shall be glad to receive them from you, and I can promise you that they will receive my careful attention.

Gentlemen,—The other principal subject to which you allude in your address is that of separate representation in the local Legislative Council. With regard to that, I am afraid that all I can say is what I have already said to other applications of a similar character elsewhere—that you must bear in mind that the number of these seats is strictly limited not only by considerations of practical convenience, but by law, and that in filling up those which do exist it is impossible to restrict too far the discretion of His Excellency the Governor in the nominations which it is his duty to make. I think it would be impossible so to restrict his discretion by granting separate rights of representation to a large number of institutions or interests, and therefore all that I can say is that when a vacancy occurs in the seat allotted to the representation of the landholders in the Legislative Council, I feel confi-

Address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

dent that His Excellency the Governor will take into consideration any representation that may be made by your Association, as he will also take into consideration any representation, or the wishes of other members of the land-owning class who may not belong to your body.

I have to thank you, gentlemen, for your courtesy in coming here to-day, and for the kind manner in which you have greeted me.

ADDRESS FROM THE UNITED PLANTERS'
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

[In replying to the address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India, His Excellency spoke as follows:—] 9th Dec. 1895.

Gentlemen,—I am glad to have had an opportunity of meeting you here to-day, and of acknowledging your courtesy in presenting the address which you have just handed to me. I should be the last to complain of your taking advantage of this opportunity to draw my attention to the three subjects affecting your interests which you have mentioned in your address. I quite appreciate that, in doing so, you have not entered into detail, and you will not of course expect me to enter into detail either, and indeed, I think that, before I conclude, you will agree with me that it would not only be impossible, but unadvisable, for me to attempt anything of the kind to-day.

But before I proceed further I must emphatically challenge the assumption that the decision of the Government of India, to which you take exception, has been come to in ignorance of the facts in regard to the conditions of labour in this part of the country. I think that anyone reading your address alone would be inclined to imagine that this question had come but once before the Government of India with the result which you describe. I do not for a moment wish to suggest that you desire to give that

Address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

impression, for you know very well that the opposite is the fact. Representations have been made by the planting interest on this subject to the Government of India ever since 1876. They have been considered over and over again. They have formed matter for correspondence with, and decision by, the Secretary of State; and I cannot admit that the Government of India, in which I include the Government at home and the Government in India itself, have all along been ignorant of the elementary facts with which they were professing to deal. The fact is that the real difficulty in this case cannot be more correctly put than it is by yourselves in this address. What you are asking for is opposed to the whole spirit of modern legislation,—so absolutely opposed to it, that the Secretary of State—I think a Conservative Secretary of State—felt the greatest hesitation in allowing Act XIII of 1859 to remain unrepealed. You cannot be ignorant of the great, I might almost call them insurmountable, difficulties which beset legislation, and especially legislation in India under circumstances of this kind; and, even if the case for legislation was more convincing than for the present I am able to admit it to be, there is surely cause enough to induce us to pause. But, gentlemen, I fancy you will now be thinking I am about to declare that I cannot do otherwise than adhere absolutely and unreservedly to the decision of the Government of India already announced to you. I should do so certainly but for one circumstance. We believe that the origin of most of your difficulties, or, at any rate, a great many of them, arises from the system which prevails among you of advances. I am not sure if that is admitted by all, but I know that there is not agreement as to the necessity of the continuance of that system. Some of you, I am aware, hold strongly that it is necessary; but there are also weighty opinions on the other side. My position in the matter is that I am extremely unwilling to refuse all assistance to a great industry unless I am quite

Address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

sure on all the material facts of the case, and these facts are not clear in my mind in regard to the system of advances. You have been good enough to suggest in your address that I should have a private interview with certain members of your Association. Well, the difficulty in that matter is that time—that most scarce commodity for a Viceroy—would make it impossible for me to take up this matter in a manner satisfactory to myself, or that would do justice to your case. Otherwise, nothing would have pleased me better than to have had an opportunity of going with you thoroughly into the details of such a question as this. What I am prepared to say is, that when I reach Calcutta I will consult with my colleagues who are in charge of the departments which deal with these particular matters, and if I find it possible—if *we* find it possible—to institute an enquiry, which I have reason to believe the Madras Government would welcome, I think I can promise that you will have the full opportunity which you desire of bringing out the whole state of your case. But please do not understand from what I am saying now that I am by any means abandoning the position which the Government of India has taken up, nor am I giving up in any way, the full discretion as to future action which the Government of India must, of course, reserve.

As to the third subject,—the question of coffee-stealing—you can entertain no doubt whatever that we have no sympathy with thieves; but, on the other hand, it is our duty to see that laws are not enacted which increase the chance of innocent persons being compelled to prove their innocence. I understand you to allege that you only propose to deal with coffee in the state before it becomes an article of retail trade, and I also infer that you imply that it is in fact possible so to discriminate. I will consider whether we have sufficient evidence on this point, and also as to whether it is necessary to treat coffee differently from other merchandise. If we think there is any doubt

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upon the matter, the question might be threshed out in the same enquiry.

I am sorry, gentlemen, that I cannot at this moment promise you to do all that you have wished. I hope I have said enough, however, to show that I recognise your claim to the most impartial consideration, that I am fully alive to the great interests which you represent, and that my desire is to help you if I can.

COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND, MADRAS.

9th Dec. 1895. [A meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, Madras Branch, was held in the banqueting hall, Government House, Madras, at 6 P.M. on Monday, the 9th December 1895. His Excellency the Governor of Madras presided, the Viceroy and Lady Elgin being present. A large number of ladies and gentlemen, besides native gentlemen, were in attendance, including the Bishop of Madras, the members of the Madras Council and High Court, Brigade-Surgeon Colonel Franklin, Honorary Secretary of the Central Branch of the Fund, the Maharaja of Vizianagram, the Rajas of Venkatagiri and Bobbili, etc. Surgeon-Major Browning, one of the two Honorary Secretaries of the Fund, presented a statement of the Madras Branch of the Fund, and explained its present history and present circumstances. Lord Wenlock, in an interesting speech, moved the adoption of the Hospital Report, the Raja of Venkatagiri seconding the motion. The Bishop of Madras and Surgeon-Major Sibthorpe then spoke in support of the Resolution, which was adopted. The Viceroy put the next Resolution, which was :—"That after hearing the Report on the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital and the Dufferin Fund, this meeting returns its best thanks to the Committee for their labours, and earnestly commends these institutions to the public for favourable support." In rising to address the meeting His Excellency was very cordially received. He said :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I respond to the call which has been made upon me by His Excellency with the same satisfaction with which I have found myself able to attend this meeting. Possibly my best qualification for moving the Resolution which I shall have to submit to you is that no

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one can doubt my impartiality. It is just possible that if any one connected with this Committee, or even perhaps with this Presidency, had submitted the Resolution to you it might have been found that some one would allege those subtle influences which, however unjustly, are sometimes attributed to the best intentions and actions; but, for my part, having had to traverse those parts of this Presidency which I have been able to visit with the utmost rapidity that the narrow gauge will permit of (*laughter*), I have therefore been obliged to accept much more grudgingly than I should otherwise have desired the hospitality and kindness offered to me not only by my old friend Lord Wenlock, but by the officials and public bodies, and I hope I may also say the people of this Presidency. (*Applause.*) It might perhaps be then said that I speak only as the mouthpiece of the Central Committee of the Fund; but that is only true with a reservation. I have, it is true, an official position in connexion with this Fund of which I am proud, but I can claim no share personally in the labours of the Central Committee, nor in the knowledge of details which are attached to those labours. My business, therefore, is, in the first place, to convey to you, on the instructions of the Lady President, the views of the Central Committee; and, in the second place, to offer any more general observations I may have to make on my own behalf.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I am instructed by the Lady President to assure you that the Central Committee recognise and appreciate the good work which has been done by the Madras Branch in the face of many difficulties. (*Applause.*) What those difficulties are have been set before you in the report which has been read and in the speeches made by His Excellency and others, and I therefore need not enter into them; but I think I am able to say that the Central Committee are in accord with the Madras Branch in the determination to make the somewhat limited funds at their disposal extend over as wide an area as possible.

Countess of Dufferin Fund, Madras.

No doubt, as the Report has said, the agencies which are employed here are not in all respects the same as those which are found in other parts of India, and it is desirable that the equipment of hospitals with more highly trained lady doctors should also come to this Presidency. I have no doubt that will follow in good time; at any rate this may be said, that there is one thing which is less satisfactory than the equipment of hospitals, and that is that a hospital should remain empty after it is erected, either from want of appreciation of the people whom it is intended to benefit, or from want of funds to carry it on in an efficient manner.

Your Excellency,—With regard to the other branch of the subjects before the meeting, to which you yourself have alluded,—I mean the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital,—I am instructed by the Lady President to express the great satisfaction which she derived from her visit to that hospital. Naturally in the case of hospitals devoted to women, it is her especial duty to make inspections and satisfy herself with regard to the practical working. It is a duty she has cheerfully and readily undertaken, and in the course of our travels through the country she has visited many hospitals. (*Applause.*) I may perhaps mention that, during the present tour, she was particularly pleased with the arrangements which she found in the neighbouring State of Mysore, where there was not only an excellent hospital, but where the arrangements for the rural districts, which, so far as I understand them, are on somewhat similar lines to those which you have in this Presidency, had evidently been carefully thought out. (*Applause.*) Lady Elgin desires me to say that it is a most pleasant ending to her inspections on this tour, to find here that everything that is possible is being done for the patients, and particularly that she recognised here the most favourable of all symptoms,—namely, gratitude on the part of the patients themselves for the efforts that are being made on their behalf. (*Applause.*)

Countess of Dufferin Fund, Madras.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I do not know that it is necessary for me to detain you with any recommendation of the Fund, or explanations of the reasons for its foundation. These matters have been dealt with in former times by more eloquent men than I, and for my part I think they can be summed up in a single sentence. The object of this Fund is to bring help to those who cannot help themselves. (*Applause.*) Pain, misery, and death there always must be in this world; but there is pain which is needless, there is misery which is preventible, and there are deaths which need not occur. (*Applause.*) Is it too much to say that there should be no man who could deny his sympathy to a movement whose only object is to remove preventible evil? This at any rate I have satisfaction in saying here, that, from the statements which have been made by His Excellency, and which we also find in the Report, as to the liberality of distinguished gentlemen in this Presidency, there are men here who recognise it as a duty and a privilege to join with us who are here in this country for a brief time only, to do what they can to assist in the great work of ameliorating the condition of the women of India. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—There is one other topic on which, before I read the Resolution which I have to put to you, I think you will expect that I should say a word. His Excellency has reminded you that this is the last time on which he and the Lady President of the Branch will have an opportunity of being on this platform at an annual meeting. Anyone who has had anything to do with meetings of this kind knows how much their success depends on the interest shown in them by those who are at their head, and we who are not here know enough of what has taken place during these last five years to sympathise most deeply with you in the loss you will sustain in losing the kindly interest and sympathy of Lady Wenlock and the business capacity and energy of His Excellency the Governor. (*Applause.*)

Unveiling the statue of Sir Steuart Bayley.

I think also that I may be pardoned, particularly after the very able Report which has been read, in expressing on your behalf the gratitude which you feel to the Honorary Secretaries, Major Lawley and Surgeon-Major Browning. (*Applause.*) The Report speaks very modestly of the amount of correspondence, but anyone who knows anything of the duties of Honorary Secretary knows that it means no small share of the work, and I think it will be of great advantage to the Fund in this Presidency, as I hope there is reason to expect, one of those gentlemen may, for a time at any rate, continue to serve the Fund in the capacity of Honorary Secretary. (*Applause.*)

[His Excellency concluded his remarks by moving the Resolution, which was seconded by the Maharaja of Vizianagram and carried unanimously.]

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF SIR STEUART BAYLEY.

7th Dec. 1895

[On Tuesday afternoon, the 17th December, the Viceroy performed the ceremony of unveiling the statue of Sir Steuart Bayley, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which has been erected at the south-west gate of Government House, Calcutta. There was a large attendance representing all classes of the community. His Excellency arrived at half-past four o'clock, and was received by Sir Charles Elliott (the retiring Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal), the Maharaja of Durbhanga, and the members of the Executive Committee. The President of the Committee (the Maharaja of Durbhanga) having read the Report of the Committee, the Lieutenant-Governor in a few brief words requested the Viceroy to unveil the statue.

His Excellency, who was received with applause, then rose and said :—]

Your Honour, Maharaja, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I respond with pleasure to the request which has been made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

When the Committee first approached me on this subject, it was intended that the ceremony should take place before I left Calcutta in the spring, at the end of March ; but one

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of those delays to which works of art are peculiarly liable intervened, and, as my departure could not be postponed, and the statue declined to be hurried, the Committee very kindly determined rather to wait till now than to proceed in my absence. Naturally, therefore, we have chosen the first day that was available, the more so as it is unfortunately the very last occasion on which we can have the pleasure of associating with us Sir Steuart Bayley's friend and successor, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. (*Applause.*)

My position to-day is a perfectly definite one. I come here at the bidding of the Committee to act on this occasion as their instrument. It was the subscribers to this fund who met some five years ago and resolved spontaneously and unanimously to create it; it is you who have carried out your purpose energetically and successfully; it is you who have had the responsibility and can claim the credit. But when you told me that to complete the work in the manner on which you had set your heart, and so do full honour to a servant of Her Majesty so distinguished, my presence was necessary, I should have been a churl indeed if I had not joined you here to day. (*Applause.*)

The proceedings of the Committee and the meeting to-day testify, I think, to the fact that Sir Steuart Bayley's services to this Province are well known to you. You know also that when he left the shores of India he did not cease to work for India, but that he has long occupied, and still holds, a high place in the counsels of the Secretary of State. But looking at the proceedings of the Committee, I have been struck by the fact that there is much stress laid at every turn on one characteristic, and that is his unfailing personal kindness and sympathy, his accessibility, and his evident desire to assist anyone who required his assistance. I cannot doubt that it was this characteristic which earned for him the respect and esteem expressed by you in the address which you presented to him, and

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which determined you still further to manifest your regard in the monument which we are to-day to unveil. And if I might be allowed to say so, it is here that I can most readily associate myself with you, even though my acquaintance with him is but slight, because I think I can almost claim to be the person in this assemblage who has had the latest experience of the characteristic to which I have referred. During the last few months of my residence in England, when I was endeavouring to prepare myself for the arduous task which lay before me, many men who have held a distinguished place here in India gave me valuable aid, for which I am, and shall ever be, most grateful; but from none did I receive more prompt and ready assistance than from Sir Steuart Bayley, and I well remember how I trespassed long on his valuable time while he explained the problems of which he was so great a master, and to which my attention was soon to be directed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think it to be a good principle that when a few simple words suffice, lengthy dissertations are out of place. I would, therefore, only ask permission to say one word more. I am glad that, at the gate of Government House, there should be erected a statue on which there might be inscribed these words:—"This is the statue of an Englishman whose life amongst them evinced to the inhabitants of this Province that he cared for and loved them;" and if you would wish one further sentence, it might be this—"This statue is erected to keep alive the memory of the man, and the memory that we are not ungrateful." (*Applause.*)

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE.

[The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Xavier's 20th Dec. 1895. College took place on Friday afternoon, the 20th December, His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. The attendance was very large and included many ladies. After a musical performance and dramatic entertainment given by the students, His Excellency distributed the prizes and then spoke as follows:—]

Before this assembly breaks up, I should wish to express to the Professors and boys of St. Xavier's College my pleasure in being here this evening, but I think I should first express the regret which I feel at the absence, and the cause of the absence, of the Rector, to whom, I am sure, it must be a great disappointment not to be here on the day that completes the session of this school. I trust that he will soon recover from the indisposition from which he is suffering.

I have also to say that Lady Elgin regrets very much that she was not able to accept the invitation kindly sent to her to accompany me on this occasion; but that is due to the fact that, on our arrival in Calcutta, there were very many engagements which she had to meet, and unfortunately there was another which clashed with the visit to the College this evening.

Boys of St. Xavier's College,—I have to thank you for the very kind terms of the address which you have presented to me, and I have to say that I listened with great satisfaction to the statement of the progress of the school which you have made in that address. Numbers by themselves perhaps are not altogether a sure test of success, but numbers and efficiency go a long way, and when, as you are able to say, your efficiency is attested by your success in the examinations which follow on your course of instruction in this institution, I think you are right in looking with satisfaction to the large number of

Distribution of Prizes at St. Xavier's College.

students who are now enrolled within these walls. I trust the institution will continue to show the good work which its long and useful career entitles us to expect from it.

I am glad also to know that it looks to the education of the body as well as of the mind, because I am quite sure that that is the best way to turn out the best men for the future work of life.

I am sure that I shall only be speaking on behalf of all those who have come here this evening when I express our gratification at the dramatic entertainment which has been provided for us.

I daresay that in this utilitarian age we might have somebody who would ask, "What is the real use of this?" That is a question which is asked of many things. It is asked even of those great languages in which some of the most distinguished dramatic works have been written, and I believe it is a question which not unfrequently occurs to boys themselves—at least I can speak from my own recollection,—and I know that when we were compelled by our tutors and instructors at school long ago to compose Latin and Greek verses every week, we were inclined to ask, "What is to be the use of that to us in our future lives?" No doubt there have been great statesmen who have, in the intervals of their occupations, found time to study and to translate the great works of classical antiquity; but still that was not the primary work with which they were engaged, and, though we may look with admiration upon them, I dare say that the question to which I have referred still applies. But I venture to suggest to you that, after all, the first object of education is—though I do not wish to be understood as setting aside the useful side of education, I mean the practical side—the first and primary object of education is so to instruct the mental faculties as to enable a man when he comes to the point at which he must choose his future course of life to use that great instrument, the mind, to the best advantage, and

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I think that anything which teaches you so to use language, and to compose language, and to express thoughts in words as to convey a logical and clear statement of your wishes and your intentions, is a useful part of education. And besides that, there is this to be borne in mind. A man, though he is born to labour, does not exist for labour entirely and alone ; he would be a poor dull creature, I think, if he did, and I believe that exercises, such as those which we have been enjoying this evening, are well calculated—both the musical and dramatical part of them—to make the boys of St. Xavier's College, as they grow up, more pleasant, as well as more useful members of society.

I have only, in conclusion, to congratulate the prize-winners, to whom I have had the pleasure of handing their prizes, on the success which they have attained in the labours of the past year. I hope that that success will only encourage them to go on and to win further success in the years that remain to them of their education, and in the future to make them good men and useful to their country. The proceedings of this evening have been, as I have said, very gratifying and pleasant. I think that it is the first occasion on which I have had the pleasure at a distribution of prizes of this kind,—and I have assisted at many,—of handing a prize to a Field Marshal* (*laughter*), and to the Field Marshal and his colleagues for the entertainment we have had I once more offer our best thanks, and I convey to them and to the boys of St. Xavier's College my heartiest wishes for their success and prosperity in their future labours. (*Applause.*)

* The character taken by one of the students in the dramatic entertainment.

COTTON DUTIES BILL.

3rd Feb. 1896 [In the Legislative Council held at Government House on Monday, the 3rd February 1896, the Hon'ble Sir James Westland presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the imposition and levy of certain duties on Cotton Goods. He explained the modifications and changes made in the Bill by the Select Committee after which the Rules of the Council were suspended to admit of the Select Committee's Report being taken into consideration. A discussion ensued in which most of the members of the Council took part, Sir James Westland speaking at some length in support of the principle of the Bill and in reply to the criticisms directed against it. After His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir A. Mackenzie) had addressed the Council, His Excellency the President closed the discussion as follows :—]

The same cause which has compelled me most unwillingly to absent myself from earlier meetings of this Council prevents me from attempting any lengthy or reasoned arguments in favour of the Bills now before it. It is, however, the less necessary for me to do so, because I entirely agree in, and adopt the defence of the policy of the Government which has been made by my Hon'ble Colleague in charge of the Finance Department in a manner which, while it was in no way deficient in vigour and mastery of detail, has been commended here, and will no doubt be recognised elsewhere as showing a full measure of temper and moderation. I desire, however, more especially to express my entire concurrence in what he has said of the nature of our responsibilities as administering the affairs of this portion of the great Empire of the Queen-Empress. It is, of course, absurd to represent the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government as advocates of two hostile interests. Hon'ble Members may recollect a spirited passage in an eloquent speech of Sir Henry Fowler, in which he declared that every Member of the House of Commons was a Member for India. Is there to be no reciprocity in this matter? I am glad to

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say that I am not called upon to argue that question after the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans to-day. So far as we are concerned, who hold our Commission from the Queen-Empress, we are bound, as the Hon'ble Finance Member has pointed out, to weigh carefully all the circumstances of the case where, as here, other interests as well as purely Indian interests are involved.

Now, I should like to look for a moment at the history of this case. The Hon'ble Finance Member reminded you in his introductory speech that it extended over three years. None of us, I think, will wish to renew the discussions, or even the memory of the discussions of 1894, and all I would say is that I cannot take the description of those discussions by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans as completely exhaustive, because he omitted one result of that controversy which perhaps did not attract so much attention at the time, but which I always thought was of great importance; and that was the admission by Her Majesty's Government that the claim for the imposition of these Cotton Duties must be measured by the financial necessities of India. Accordingly when, at the end of 1894, we presented an overwhelming case, so far as our necessities were concerned, the imposition of these duties was agreed to, subject to the condition that they were not to be protective. I am not going to enter into any argument now as to the propriety or reasonableness of that condition. It is sufficient for my purpose to say that it was accepted by the Government of India, and that this Council endorsed our acceptance. The main debate in 1895 was concerned with the method by which we should carry out that condition. We, the Government of India, certainly thought then, and Council probably thought still more emphatically, that we had amply met our obligation; but in matters of this importance we are bound to be fair-minded, and it has been impossible for us to refuse to acknowledge that the arrangement which we thought suffi-

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cient last year has been inadequate to fulfil our obligation. It then became our duty to reconsider our arrangements. I regret that it was not in our power to act upon the suggestion which those interested in cotton goods in Bombay and Calcutta made to us; and I join with my Hon'ble Colleague in recognising the ability, liberality, and fairness of mind which are apparent in the papers in which they embodied their views. There were no doubt advantages to be gained from that proposal, and it was most carefully discussed and considered by us; but we came distinctly to the opinion—and nothing that has emerged since has weakened my conviction—that this particular remedy would fail in what the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair has most truly insisted upon as the all-important condition, namely, some reasonable chance of finality. It is impossible of course to give the Hon'ble Member the pledge he asks. If, as I have said, the imposition of these duties must be ruled by India's financial necessities, he would be a bold man who would undertake to prophesy the duration of those necessities; but we do put forward the present legislation in the hope and belief that it meets the obligation which we undertook when the duties were imposed, that obligation being that the mills in England and the mills in India should compete on equal terms. I have said the mills in England and the mills in India, because it has been attempted to put forward the handloom weaver, and I have been somewhat surprised to find this matter insisted upon so strongly in this Council. We have had some suggestions from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, based on the statistics of a limited area, which of course I cannot deal with on the spur of the moment; and we have had an ingenious, and, if I may say so, an amusing attempt by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans to reconcile his opinion of 1894 with the necessities of his argument to-day.

The Hon'ble Finance Member and the Hon'ble Mr. Rees

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have, I think, shown how entirely different is the position of the hand-loom weaver as a competitor from that of one set of mill-owners with another. I cannot but think that the reasonable men in Lancashire (and I venture to say that there are reasonable men there) will be the first to acknowledge this fact. I say so with the more confidence, because I come from a district in Scotland which was the home of hand-loom weaving in the memory of men still living; but all that I can recollect is row upon row of houses, through the dusty windows of which one could see the looms still there, but silent and deserted, as an asset of no value, to perish with the roof that covered them. It may be said that these weavers at home had no duty to assist them: no, but they also were not scattered over the vast Empire of India, but were able and knew how to bring their influence to bear on Parliamentary elections, and they had the Scottish "dourness" (if I may use a Scotch word) that is not easily beaten; yet beaten they were absolutely out of the field, and I have a firm conviction that if it ever comes to real competition between mills and hand-loom in India, I shall be able to agree with the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans of 1894 that it is not $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 per cent. that will save the latter.

The Government must proceed with the legislation they have put before you, and must ask you to pass these Bills. We believe they will effect their purpose and restore to the great trade both in Lancashire and in India the feeling of security which at this moment it sorely needs. I venture to hope that if this most desirable end is attained, the somewhat excited feelings of to-day in certain circles will pass away, and it will at least be acknowledged, as the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans has most handsomely said, that the Government of India has had no other object in view but to deal with a most difficult question in the manner which in their judgment is most likely to be effectual.

[The Bill was subsequently passed into law, together with the Bill

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to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894,—a small amendment intended to carry out with reference to imported goods the policy which the Finance Minister had described with reference to goods generally.]

THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

13th Mar. 1896. [The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the National Association for supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India was held in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday afternoon, the 13th March, His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin and a number of ladies and gentlemen occupied seats on the dais.

The Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn moved the adoption of the Report and the Hon'ble Rai Ananda Charlu seconded the Resolution. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir A. Mackenzie) moved a vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, "and to Her Excellency the Lady President for the constant and unfailing interest shown by her in the Fund and its operations." The Resolution was seconded by the Hon'ble the Nawab of Loharu.

His Excellency the Viceroy then spoke as follows :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—In returning to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Nawab of Loharu my best thanks for the terms in which they have moved and seconded the Resolution which they have put to this meeting, I think I may say that there is one circumstance which makes it particularly appropriate that I should be present here to-day. There is nothing more important to the welfare of an Association than that those who are primarily in charge of its affairs should be well qualified to take an interest in the practical working of those matters with which it deals. Now, as you are aware, I have, during the last few months, been suffering from an attack of illness, and I may say that I am in a position to certify that in the two officials of this Association who stand at its head there can be none more versed in all the processes of the gentle art of healing than the Lady President and the

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Honorary Secretary. It is to their care I owe it that I am able to be present here to-day, and it is perhaps a rather singular circumstance that my first dissipation outside Government House should be to attend the meeting of the Dufferin Fund Association. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that during the course of my illness one reflection constantly came to my mind, and that was the regret that in the time that was passing I was losing the opportunity which is ever welcomed by one in my position of meeting with many, both European and Native, who either reside in or come to Calcutta at this season of the year. I have received so much kindness from so many during the past two years that it has been to me a great regret that during this season I have been obliged to forego those opportunities, and I can only hope that in another season no such cause will intervene to prevent me from renewing them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—In the present state of the atmosphere I am sure you will be glad to hear that my recovered energy does not prompt me to detain you at any length. There are two points of view from which I could approach this subject. In the first place, I could speak of the general objects of the Association. Well, I did so on a former occasion, and I do not think that I should serve any useful purpose in repeating that which is so well known; on the other hand, I might call your attention to the many interesting points which occur in the Report of the Proceedings of this year. Well, they are contained in the volume which I have no doubt every one present intends to master, and the salient points have been referred to by previous speakers. I could, if I wished, pick out many things on which I should like to say a word or two, but I will only take one as a sample. Last year, when addressing you, I endeavoured to say a few words in support of the project then before the Bengal community of building a boarding-house in connection with the

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Campbell Medical School. It was with great gratification that I found that that project had not only been taken up, but that the hostel was built and was open. I am sure that the cause is that everybody wished to do justice to the known wish of Lady Elliott, and I cannot help saying that it is, in my opinion, as creditable to Bengal as it must have been gratifying to herself. On the general question, therefore, I think it will be sufficient for me to congratulate the Association on the good results which are shown, and on their continued progress. Even in this country of large figures the fact which has been alluded to by previous speakers, that the number of patients has now for the first time exceeded one million, must be held to be a satisfactory one. I have, however, one special duty to perform, and that is to act, so far as I can, as spokesman for the Lady President. You will observe in the Report that the Lady President has continued the practice of previous years, and during the opportunities offered by our tours throughout the country, she has made it her endeavour to visit all the hospitals and institutions which came in her way. In fact I generally found, when we arrived at any place, that the first thing was to enquire where the Dufferin Hospital was situated, and the next was to fix the time for a visit. Now, I would only draw attention to three things in connection with our tour. We visited several Native States last winter. The first which I shall mention was Bhopal, where there was found a hospital in working operation that bore the name of the late Lady President—the “Lady Lansdowne Hospital”—and we received from Her Highness the Begum the fullest assurance that if anything were wanted, it would be her pleasure to give effect to it. Then we proceeded to Mysore, and the Report, which you will find incorporated in the General Report of the Mysore Branch, is so interesting that I should like to trouble you with two sentences. They say that “Since the opening of the Mysore Branch of the

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Countess of Dufferin's Fund in 1886, hospitals for women, with a lady Medical Attendant attached to each of them, have been established in all the districts of the Province, *vis.*, Shimoga, Chickmagalur, Chitaldroog, Hassan, Tamkur, and Kolar. Thus by the impetus given in this direction by the Association, medical aid is now within the reach of every woman in the land. Before this time the only towns possessing these advantages were Bangalore and Mysore, and even these were not provided with lady Doctors. The most pressing need in this State, however, was the paucity of properly-trained and qualified midwives, and it was to meet this want that the local Branch gave its first attention. A number of native women have been trained at its expense and distributed all over the Province, and are silently doing much good work and are much appreciated."

Now I wish to point out to you that the Dufferin Fund has a Branch at Mysore, but that the State itself has undertaken all the arrangements in accordance with the enlightened policy of the late Maharaja and Her present Highness the Maharani Regent; and I think that has a bearing on what I said last year as to the position of this Association with regard to other Agencies. I maintain that there is no possible question of jealousy between this Association and any other Association which takes up the same work. Nor is there any desire on the part of this Association to claim a credit which does not belong to it. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has alluded to returns which he thinks do not bring out with sufficient clearness the fact that among the patients who are enumerated there are patients who attend hospitals that are not distinctly Dufferin hospitals. Well, I would only say that if you would turn to the Report of the North-Western Provinces you would find that the return in question is made up of three branches and that it distinctly brings out the facts as to what patients are treated in hospitals aided by the

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Dufferin Fund, what patients are treated in Zenana hospitals maintained from other sources, and what patients are treated in hospitals altogether maintained by the Dufferin Fund. All that I wish to say—for I am sure there is no difference in this matter between the desire of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and myself—all that I wish to point out is this, that in this very great and enormous work, the magnitude of which has been referred to by the seconder in the eloquent remarks he has made to you, the Dufferin Fund cannot, I imagine, under any circumstances, look to more than this, that it is the nucleus from which every good work must spring, and what we desire to manifest and bring out to everybody is the extent to which medical aid is provided for the women of India.

Besides the places which I have mentioned, we were also able to be present in Madras at the meeting of the Madras Branch. Her Excellency the Lady President was extremely pleased not only to find a very satisfactory report presented at that meeting, but also tokens at the meeting itself of the interest taken in the movement by the leading gentlemen of the Presidency, and I might, I think, mention the very great liberality of the Maharaja of Vizianagram. One other circumstance which was self-evident at that meeting was the great loss which the Madras Branch were about to suffer in the impending departure of Lord and Lady Wenlock, whose devotion to the success of the Dufferin Fund movement is well known and appreciated in that Presidency.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Lady President also desires me to say one or two words on her behalf on the more personal topics mentioned at the end of the Report. In this Association, as is unavoidable under the circumstances of life in India, we have every year to record changes in the Committee—changes which we deeply regret. I have alluded already to the departure from Bengal of Lady Elliott, and I would only refer to it again to say that I am

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sure we shall all feel that in her successor, Lady Mackenzie, we shall have one who will imitate the example of Lady Elliott. The Lady President also wishes me to express her great regret that the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Macdonald, who for a considerable time occupied the responsible position of having charge of the finances, was obliged during the course of the year to resign owing to ill-health; and she also desires me to express her deep regret that the time is now so near approaching when she will be deprived of the support and assistance of one who has never failed to give to the service of this Fund that great ability for which he is so distinguished—I mean my Colleague Sir Henry Brackenbury. Her Excellency also wishes me to say that she would not like the meeting to conclude without my conveying from herself personally the expression of her thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have taken part in the local Committees, and especially to the Honorary Secretaries, and perhaps I might say, more especially of all, the Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee, to whom she feels that her thanks are due individually and personally.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not think that I need detain you any longer. I have been present at this meeting with great pleasure as a meeting which marks one step more in the successful progress of a great movement, and I trust as time goes on successive meetings will show a successful record of progress in this important work.

PRESIDENCY VOLUNTEERS, CALCUTTA.

21st March 1895. [On Saturday afternoon, the 21st March, the Viceroy inspected the Administrative Battalion of the Presidency Volunteers, numbering about 700 men. Her Excellency Lady Elgin afterwards distributed the prizes for shooting. The inspection took place opposite the grand staircase of Government House in the presence of a large number of spectators. At the close of the inspection His Excellency addressed the corps as follows :—]

Colonel Chatterton, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles,—It is, I assure you, a great pleasure to me to meet you here once again, and I thank you for presenting yourselves here for my inspection. The ceremonies which attend this day are in themselves simple and do not take up much time, which perhaps is a recommendation in the present state of the weather. But I hope you will agree with me in thinking that they are of value as being the outward and visible sign of that community of interest which, so long as I retain my present office, it will be my pleasure and duty to promote and foster.

Colonel Chatterton,—No doubt one of the first requisites of any military body is that it should maintain its strength. After all no military body can be really efficient unless you have men to deal with. But I am glad to say that in most of the corps in the Administrative Battalion there has been no difficulty during the past year in maintaining their strength; or if there has been any difficulty at all, that difficulty has been overcome. No doubt in one of the corps, the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, there has been a somewhat serious falling off, but I do not think that it is necessary for me to dilate unduly upon this, for perhaps it is due to a temporary cause and will soon pass away. It may not, however, be out of place for me to express the hope on the one hand that the company officers will use every endeavour to maintain the strength of their

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companies, and on the other hand that the young men of Calcutta will recognise the great advantage to themselves not only in the performance of their duty as loyal citizens, but in the other benefits they will gain by joining the ranks of the Calcutta Volunteers.

I should not like to pass without a word of notice the fact that "F" Company (the Trades Company) has so well maintained its strength during the past year, because I well recollect that on the first occasion on which I addressed you in 1894, I had to draw attention to the marked increase in that company, and I am glad to see that not only has it maintained its numbers, but that it shows, perhaps as a necessary consequence, remarkable efficiency; for I find that not less than 103 out of a total strength of 119 were present at the annual inspection, and that the company has gained the warm commendation of the Officer Commanding the Presidency District, Brigadier-General Yeatman-Biggs.

I understand that the several corps have all been inspected and have gained general commendation at the annual inspection. I believe that this is especially the case with the Cossipur Artillery Volunteers, and I am also glad to hear that the camps of the Calcutta Light Horse, the Cossipur Artillery Volunteers, and the Eastern Bengal Railway Volunteers have taken place this year and have been very successful, because I am sure that this will tend greatly to the efficiency and prosperity of these corps.

Colonel Chatterton,—As regards the shooting results, I have not been in the habit of dwelling upon them in detail; they are recorded in the list which is in our hands; and we shall have optical demonstration of the prize-winners in a short time, when they present themselves at this table to receive their prizes. Still, I should like to congratulate "B" Company on retaining their place at the head of the list, and on the fact that none of their rivals

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have yet been able to carry off from them the Challenge Shield. I think it is also noteworthy that the Eastern Bengal Railway Volunteers have carried off as many as 36 prizes out of a total of 110, and the Cossipur Artillery 15. But I am bound to say that, turning to the other side, I am rather inclined to think that the men of Calcutta will have to look to it that they are not beaten by the boys. I find that in strength the boys already outnumber them, having on the rolls 614, of whom the very creditable proportion of 494 presented themselves for the annual inspection. But this is not all, for they seem to be prepared to compete with their seniors with the rifle. I understand that not less than eleven of the boys of the cadet companies carried off prizes that were open to their seniors. Perhaps that is not to be wondered at, for I find it recorded on the 29th February last that in rapid independent firing a team of ten cadets of St. Joseph's School placed 45 out of 50 shots on a target 6 by 4 at 200 yards range. Similarly another team of the Catholic Male Orphanage obtained 40 hits. I venture to think that in addition to the great advantages of physical education there is the advantage which has often been dwelt upon—namely, that you have in the cadet companies the nucleus for other companies in the years to come.

There is one other matter with regard to which I should like to say a word before I close. Last year I drew your attention to a Bill which had at that time been introduced into the Legislative Council dealing with the conditions of service of Volunteers. As you know, that Bill has since passed into law. It was not adopted until it had been duly criticised by those who took the greatest interest in the Volunteer movement in India, and until all suggestions possible had been duly considered and amendments made. In the passage of that Bill in Council it was in the hands of my honourable colleague Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Brackenbury, and you well know that it could not have

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been in better hands. I trust that the eloquent speech which he made in Council on that Bill has been read by many of you, and that you have also noticed the manner in which it was supported by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. All that I wish to say on this subject just now is that, passing as it did without a dissentient voice through the Council, I did not consider it necessary to add my support to the measure, but I do not suppose for a moment that it will therefore be imagined that those who are in charge of the civil administration of this country are not as keenly interested in the Volunteer movement as their military colleagues, in whose hands no doubt, in consonance with your wishes, it is proper that these measures should be placed. There is only one point in regard to that Act upon which I wish to say a word. Sir Henry Brackenbury drew attention to it, but perhaps a word more will not be out of place. It is with reference to that provision of the Act which says that the Act should not apply to any member of the Volunteer force who had enrolled himself under the old conditions, without his written consent. In his speech Sir Henry Brackenbury expressed the fervent hope that there would be no standing back by the Volunteers, but that they would come forward and accept readily and unanimously the provisions of the new Act. All that I would say is that I fully endorse that expression of hope by my honourable colleague, because I feel that in the provisions of that Act the Government have done the very best that was in their power for the interest of the Volunteers, and it is not too much for us to expect from you that you will reciprocate our interest in you, and come forward and put yourselves under its conditions; and that next year, when I shall, I hope, again have the pleasure of seeing you, I shall find that the Calcutta Volunteers have without exception adopted the provisions and are serving under the new conditions of service.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1896-97.

26th Mar. 1896. [The Hon'ble Sir James Westland, Financial Member of Council, made his Financial Statement for 1896-97 in the Governor General's Legislative Council on the 19th March, and the discussion of it took place on the 26th idem. The discussion was opened by Sir James Westland, who was followed by the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair, the Hon'bles Mr. Buskhate, the Nawab of Loharu, Mr. Rees, Mr. Ananda Charlu, Mr. Cadell, Mr. Woodburn, Sir Henry Brackenbury, and the Lieutenant-Governor. Sir James Westland replied at length to the criticisms of previous speakers. At the close of the discussion His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

I recognise with pleasure that no attack has been made on the policy of the Budget now under discussion, which calls for any general defence from me. It is not a sensational Budget; it is, as the Hon'ble Member has said, a modest Budget,—as modest as himself,—but I doubt if sensational Budgets are always the most satisfactory. It is generally agreed that, in the circumstances of the present time, the proper financial policy for India is one that is cautious, moderate, and conservative, and that while the time may come, as the Hon'ble Member has hinted, for a comprehensive revision of the position, that time is not yet. What we have done in the Budget before us is to take advantage of the increase of the revenue which has exceeded the anticipations of last year in two ways; in the first place, to retrace certain steps which we were very unwillingly obliged to take in laying under contribution for general purposes grants which otherwise would have been devoted to special and useful purposes; and, in the second place, to the making good of special deficiencies. It is, in my opinion, most satisfactory that we have been again able to grant the large sum of a crore of rupees to the purposes of Famine Insurance—purposes as to which I cannot altogether accept the definition of the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, which, I venture to think, is based on some misconception of the original proposals, of the nature of the

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transactions of the last fifteen years, and of the necessities of to-day. It is also most satisfactory that we have been able to restore to Provincial Governments the contributions from their balances which we had to demand in 1894. I have for myself always entirely sympathised with the disappointment which the Local Governments must feel, when they are suddenly called upon to relinquish funds on which they had calculated for works which they considered essential for the well-being of the people under their care.

It is satisfactory also, for the reasons so well stated by the Hon'ble the Military Member, that we are at last able to complete those arrangements on which, it has been long recognised, in an emergency the safety of the Empire would depend. There is only one general remark which I should like to make with reference to these aspects of the Budget, and that is that it must not be supposed that we are going to deal equally generously with all demands of the kind. My Hon'ble Colleague, the Financial Member, will insist on as strict economy as the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu can desire.

I am sure the Council will have heard with much interest the statement which has been made by the Hon'ble the Military Member. Not only have we listened to it with interest, but it will be exceedingly valuable to have on our proceedings a record of this kind. It is a record of a great work, not only the work during five years of an individual of distinguished ability, but the work of a great Department of State under the guidance of the Hon'ble Member. It is, I believe, a record of progress both in efficiency and in economy.

We shall all miss the Hon'ble Member in our debates here, but we rejoice to know that the influence of his work will be felt in India for many years to come.

There is another great Department, however, in which it is impossible for me not to take a personal interest, and to which I should like to refer. The Hon'ble Mr. Playfair

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has spoken of the importance to India of its railways. He not unnaturally dwells specially on the question of rates. But I shall, with him, postpone the discussion of that delicate question. He has, however, spoken of the general railway policy of the Government with approval, and I should like to say a word or two about that.

The development of the country by the construction of railways has for long been the recognized policy of the Government of India, and I need support it by no detailed argument. The fact is that it is the method by which we can materially improve the condition of the vast population dependent upon agriculture most surely and most steadily, and I am the last person to deny the contention of the Hon'ble Member from the Central Provinces, that there is much in the condition of the agricultural population that calls for the careful attention of the Government. Even irrigation works, all important as they are in certain localities, can scarcely claim such far-reaching results as railways; at all events, unless irrigation and railway works proceed simultaneously.

I need scarcely point out that the improvement in the condition of the people which I have claimed for railways has a special bearing on the discussion of to-day. I believe that if the lines we have constructed for military purposes and for protection against Famine are kept separate, a very sufficient return is realised on the capital we have expended on railways. But, in truth, their value is far greater indirectly—from the growth and stability of the land revenue on which Indian Finance depends so much, and which in its turn depends largely on increased facilities of communication.

But while there has never been much doubt about the policy, there has been considerable debate as to the best means of carrying it out. At first the construction of railways was generally entrusted to Companies under some form of guarantee: then came a period when State

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Agency alone was employed. Since 1880 the pendulum has swung now to one side, now to another: and the problem has been how best to utilise the resources of the State on the one hand, and the funds which private enterprise offers on the other.

I think there has been some misconception of what the Government have been doing in the matter. I shall not repeat more than necessary what has been said by other Members, but I should like to say how it appears to me.

As a preliminary, however, we must clearly understand what we mean by private enterprise as applied to railways. It is not the same, and probably it never can be wholly the same here as it is in England. There it means that certain persons propose to construct a railway; they obtain surveys and estimates, and prepare their Bill; they prove their surveys and estimates before a Select Committee, and pass their Bill, if they can. They raise their capital, buy the land, carry out their works; and, if they succeed in all this, they may make a profit. Throughout they look for nothing from the State. Parliament gives them certain rights, and imposes on them certain obligations, but only interferes with them financially by mulcting them in heavy Parliamentary expenses.

We have nothing of all this in India, not even the last item. Private enterprise does not stand alone in this way. I do not propose at present to examine the causes of this; I merely ask you to note the fact that it is the State which makes the survey, which examines the estimates, which sanctions the project, which provides the land, which perhaps builds the line; and quite possibly, in certain circumstances, might even work it. In fact, the assistance given to the Government in India by private enterprise, with scarcely an exception, takes one of two forms: (1), it raises the capital in the sense that it acts as intermediary between the Government and the individual investor; or (2), it undertakes the management of the line

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when opened. Of the second, I need not say more than this : that the policy of entrusting the working of railways to Company management has, in several instances, proved very successful, and may be carried further with advantage, provided that the Companies are such that we can be sure the management will be in the hands of capable and energetic men.

As to the raising of capital, I need scarcely remind you that the determining cause is the nature of the security offered. In proportion to any doubt which the investor may entertain of the safety of his investment will he demand a larger interest on his loan. The Government of India could certainly borrow on its own account all the money required for its railways at the cheapest rate, if it consented to offer the security of the revenues of India. Of late years, as I have said, it has been thought wiser not to do this in all cases, and the assistance of private enterprise has, therefore, been sought. That was the origin of the Branch Lines Resolution of 1893, which offered, not the guarantee of the Government, but a security based on certain traffic arrangements. I believe that as all, or almost all, of the lines coming under this Resolution would have been lines which had been approved by the Government as likely to give a fair return, the terms of the Resolution did, as a matter of fact, afford ample security. But, unfortunately, the conditions were necessarily somewhat complicated, and it was impossible so to state them as to bring home to the average reader what his true position would be. The results, therefore, have been disappointing, and the Government have taken the whole matter into consideration. It has now been determined to issue a new Resolution for branch lines which will offer two alternatives—

- (1) a fixed yearly minimum dividend with such share of the surplus net profits as may be agreed upon ; or,

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(2) a rebate arrangement on the lines of the present.

The particular rate of interest will, of course, form part of the bargain, but the present intention is that the minimum dividend to be guaranteed under the first alternative should not exceed 3 per cent., and the rate of interest secured by rebates under the second alternative should be $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The effect will be shortly this—

Under (1) the Company will receive an absolute guarantee of interest at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent. and a higher return if the net earnings of the branch are sufficient to pay more than the guaranteed dividend; and as an alternative, under (2) the Company will receive a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., provided that the amount of the net earnings from local and interchange traffic be sufficient, and a higher return if the net earnings of the branch from its own traffic be sufficient to pay a higher dividend.

I do not wish to be misunderstood. We do not put forward this new Resolution because the small success of the former Resolution has hindered us in pushing forward the work of construction of railways. I do not believe that the amount of work we are now doing is at all realised, and I should like to give a few figures of mileage to show what it has been during the year now current.

At the commencement of 1895-96, *i.e.*, on the 1st April 1895, the total length of railways open for traffic was 18,863 miles, and the mileage under construction, or sanctioned for commencement on the same date, was 2,217 miles. During 1895-96, *i.e.*, from April 1st, 1895, to the present time, the commencement of 2,384 miles of new railway was authorised, and 1,009 miles were opened to traffic.

Thus the total length of open line at the present moment is 19,873 miles, and the mileage now under construction, or sanctioned for commencement, is 3,564 miles,

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Adding together the amount of construction completed during the current year, and that in hand at the end of it, we have 4,573 miles, or an addition of one-fourth to the existing railways of India. This length of line exceeds the total length constructed in the United Kingdom in the last 20 years—Or, to put it another way, is more than double the entire mileage of what is sometimes called the premier railway in England—the London and North-Western Railway Company—while there are only half a dozen Railway Companies in the United Kingdom, whose mileage exceeds that which we opened as new lines in India in the single year 1895-96.

I think that Hon'ble Members will be of opinion that this is a sufficiently extended programme. That part of it which still remains to be completed represents an expenditure of something like 35 crores. The Financial Statement shows that we are preparing to undertake not much less than a third of it during the year 1896-97, including the amounts which are to be provided by Companies, and do not pass through the Government Accounts.

It is also a comprehensive programme if you look at the character of the principal undertakings. In the West, in the Bombay Presidency, we have the Rohri-Kotri Chord (200 miles) which not only practically doubles the main line to Karachi, but secures us against an interruption of the traffic by the irruption of the Indus.

Passing northwards, we have in Upper India the new Company, the Southern Punjab, with a mileage of 400 miles, shortening materially the distance from Delhi. We have extensions of the Bengal and North-Western and Tirhoot State Railway system (489 miles) which will provide on the north side of the Gogra a much-improved communication between the districts where population is congested, and the districts in Eastern Bengal and Assam where labour is scarce, and on the south side of the Gogra a series of branches in the Eastern part of the North-

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West Provinces which is peculiarly liable to scarcity. We have also an important work, though the mileage is shorter, in the linking-up of the metre gauge systems of the North and West by a new connection between Cawnpore and the Gogra river (80 miles).

In Central India we have the Saugor-Katni Line (118 miles) in connection with the Indian Midland system, which will not only secure districts which have suffered from scarcity more than any others since I came here, but will give a direct access for Umaria coal towards the west; and a similar advantage for east and west traffic has been secured by the construction of the Godhra-Rutlam and Bhopal-Ujjain Railways, a little further south.

In the East there is the great scheme of the East Coast Railway, long contemplated, and now in a fair way to completion, of which it might be enough to say that Calcutta and Madras seem prepared to tear any one to pieces who denies their claim to the larger share in its benefits. At all events, this large work, of which there is now under construction about 600 miles, while it completes the programme of the Famine Commission—a Commission which, I may remark, did long ago the work which, if I rightly understood the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu's observation, he asked should now be done—in the one district remaining, Orissa, and gives an independent access to Calcutta to the Bengal and Nagpur Railway, will connect Madras with the Northern districts of that Presidency, and will bring to it cheaply and expeditiously the excellent coal of Singareni. I am obliged to the Hon'ble Mr. Rees for the warm way in which he has represented the views of Madras.

In the North-East by the doubling of a considerable portion of the Eastern Bengal Railway, we hope to provide facilities for the great jute trade in which this city is so largely interested, while it is not too much to say that the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway (600 miles)

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will open up an entire province, and have a lasting effect on another great interest, *i.e.*, trade in tea.

In Burma we have in hand the completion of the Mu Valley Line to Myitkina, which will give a through connection to Upper Burma over more than 700 miles of Railway, and by the Mandalay-Kunlon (224 miles) the carrying forward of our railways to the Chinese border.

In addition to all this, and outside the mileage figures I have given, the Nizam's Government have several railway projects under consideration, and we are assured that a line in the Godaveri Valley of some 400 miles in length will shortly be begun. The growing interest taken by Native States in Railway construction is an encouraging symptom.

I venture to say that in this programme—I do not profess to have described it exhaustively, but only to have touched on its more prominent features and the longer lines—we have endeavoured to provide for the more pressing needs in many directions and in varying conditions of this great Empire. I do not deny that there are many more to satisfy. I know that here in this city there are those who complain of our inaction. I can say for the Government, as well as for myself, that we can never be indifferent to anything that would tend to the prosperity of this city and of its trade. No one who has seen the magnificent spectacle of the river crowded with shipping could fail to recognise how strong would be the arguments—sentimental as well as material—against anything that affected adversely interests so great. But if I may say so in a whisper, we are doing something for Calcutta on the East Coast Railway—on the Eastern Bengal Railway—perhaps I might add in the opening up of Assam. I am not going to argue in detail the vexed question of the connection to the North. I am bound to say that I am not one of those who think two railways always better than one, or three railways better than two, and

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I am also bound to add that I cannot find evidence to prove that the existing facilities are insufficient for the existing traffic. On the other hand, I admit that there are districts from which new traffic might come to Calcutta, and I admit that if and when existing facilities proved insufficient, it would be necessary to provide additional facilities. All I would urge is that in the case of new traffic, we are bound to have as complete information as can be obtained; in the case of coal-fields to be opened up, we are bound to be satisfied as to the quality and quantity of the coal, and in the case of fresh facilities we must study the best way of giving them; and much as I should like to see the coal traffic from Palamow or Jherria filling the docks of Kidderpore, all I can say now is that we are prosecuting our enquiries as to the mineral resources of the district between Calcutta and the North-West, but that they are not complete.

As to fresh facilities, *primâ facie*, the first desideratum is to shorten the distance to be travelled. It will have been observed from a reply by the Secretary of State the other day to a question in Parliament that we have acknowledged that it falls to the East Indian Railway to construct what is undoubtedly the shortest line to the North, *vis.*, the line known as the "Grand Chord"; but we have coupled that acknowledgment with a very important stipulation. We are distinctly of opinion that full rights to running powers must be reserved for the administration working the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway over any lines that may hereafter form part of a new through route between Mogul Serai and Calcutta, and that stipulation will be found in the contract for the construction of the lines to Shergotty and Gaya now sanctioned. We recognise that it is imperative that the mercantile communities, not only of Calcutta, but of Upper India, should be secured the full benefits that such a scheme, when carried out, would bring; and what I wish to make clear is that, if we have not been

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able to accept the case for the immediate construction of a second line between Calcutta and the North-West, we have at least taken care that no steps we are taking now shall be an obstacle to such a line, if it should be found desirable in the future.

And if any one has any hesitation about the efficiency of such a provision, I can give him an example. I was till the other day a Director of a Railway Company in Scotland that only by a right to running powers over a certain section of railway has access to an important city. It was essential to our rivals to shut us out if they could, and I will not deny that they did their best, but that they failed, I think, will be self-evident when I mention that the line of which I speak formed the "run in," "the finish," of the great Railway race to the North, of which the home papers were so full a few months ago. There will be no lack of competition if the rivals of the East Indian Railway have the same powers as the rivals of the Caledonian.

I have shown that our programme is a full programme, and that it covers a great deal of ground. I wish now to impress upon you that all this lays upon the Government one duty above others for the present, *i.e.*, to resist temptation. It is very tempting to be asked to embark in large schemes or great works. But if I am right in saying that the State is concerned in some way or other in every railway enterprise in India, it is undoubtedly incumbent on us not only to push forward railway construction at a favourable time such as this, but to do so at a rate that is not excessive, but can be steadily maintained : to be bold, indeed, but not to be rash. With this object it is most desirable that the Government should themselves determine in the case of the larger schemes what new railways are required, and when they ought to be undertaken. It is only by so doing that a programme can be formed, can be adhered to, and can be carried out with regularity and efficiency. For the present it will be clear

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to every one that, so far as large schemes are concerned, our hands are full, and our ambitions must be humble.

But there is another branch of railway construction which is at this moment even more important than the prosecution of large schemes, and that is the construction of those shorter lines which spread out from the great systems and by gathering together the produce of the country, extend the beneficial influence of these systems over a far wider area. There is but one opinion of the necessity that exists for these lines in all directions, if we are to secure the development of the country of which I spoke at the beginning. I hope that though our hands are full, it will still be possible to proceed with this work. It is a work which is specially suited for the employment of private enterprise, and I have told you the encouragement we are prepared to offer. It is a work which can also be profitably undertaken by the great main lines themselves, and we are anxious to see them engaged in it. It is a work of which the several items may seem unimportant, yet which is the most potent instrument we possess not only to consolidate and render profitable the great Railway system of India, in which so much of its wealth is invested, but to make it an all-powerful agent in the promotion of the material and social advancement and political tranquillity of the people.

FANCY DRESS BALL, VICEREGAL LODGE.

23rd Sept. 1896. [At the Fancy Dress Ball at Viceregal Lodge on Wednesday, September 23rd, the Viceroy, after supper, proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, and spoke as follows:—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The presence of this distinguished company must make this day a memorable one; but I hope I shall be pardoned if I remind you that it is also a day that cannot fail to be memorable in the history of the British Crown, whose subjects we are, and in the life of our beloved Sovereign. The fact that her reign is now the longest in British history offers enticing opportunities for oratory, but do not be alarmed. I shall not risk the just resentment of the young ladies by interfering for more than a moment with the proper business of the evening; but the Queen belongs to us all, and, though Her Majesty has ordered all official ceremonies to be postponed, I cannot think that a word on an event that must be so overwhelmingly interesting to herself will be deemed inappropriate. It is as useless for me to attempt to indicate, as it is impossible for you to realise, all that this event must mean to the Queen, and I confess that the feeling that is uppermost in my mind is how unapproachable, how isolated, if I may say so, how lonely her position is. Few of us can look back over 60 years; 60 years ago Miss Eden was writing her most interesting diaries, and the whole society of Simla, I believe, consisted of not more than 150 persons; few, if any, can look back to 60 years of Public duty, none to 60 years in a station on which the eyes of the whole world are fixed.

To take but one of the incidental consequences of this long period, what must it mean to one so placed, and that one a woman, to feel, as she looks back on the past, that of the Counsellors, in whom she learned in her youth to trust, not one remains to her; nay more, that successive generations of her servants have passed away until, if I may be, permitted an illustration that brings the fact home to me

Fancy Dress Ball, Viceregal Lodge.

she entrusts the high office of her Representative in her Indian Empire to one on whom in his cradle she bestowed her name, when already she had been seated twelve years ^{23rd Sept.} upon her throne. I cannot but think that, if not to-day, there must have been moments in the past when this feeling of loneliness must have been present with terrible force; but I also venture to hope that it has always been accompanied by the best antidote in the consciousness of the love and devotion of every one of her subjects. It is a devotion for which we can claim no credit; it has been fairly and honestly earned. It may be that in the line of her progenitors there have been sovereigns as renowned as Queen Victoria, though I hesitate to affirm it; it may be that there have been those who added as largely to the power and influence of the nation, though it is hard to believe it of the Sovereign who is the first of her race to wear the Imperial Crown of India as well as the Royal Crown of Britain; but I assert absolutely and unaffectedly, and without fear of challenge, that none will live longer in the affectionate remembrance of her people. Every inch a Queen, and bearing the burden of Royalty as few have ever borne it, it is known to all that her dignity has never checked the ready flow of that womanly sympathy which has so constantly ministered to the afflictions of her subjects of every degree in every part of her wide dominions. That alone, even if it stood alone, would, I think, justify my intervention this evening, and our claim to a loving interest in all that concerns Her Majesty. That alone, taken with all it embraces and implies, justifies me on this occasion, when I give you the old familiar toast, in the old familiar formula, to ask you to allow the chord in your hearts, which I believe this toast always touches, to vibrate yet more strongly, and your lips to murmur with a fuller, wider, and deeper significance than usual the well-known prayer "God save the Queen."

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

[At the meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council which was held in Simla on Thursday the 15th October 1896, the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn made a statement with regard to the failure of the crops which had occurred during the season and the measures that were being taken by the Imperial and Local Governments. 15th Oct. 1896.

His Excellency, the President, spoke as follows :—]

The statement of the Hon'ble Member will, I hope, be an assurance, if assurance be needed, that the Government of India are fully alive to their responsibilities in a matter so serious as any threatening of the approach of famine. Famine which is the result of a sudden failure of our accustomed rainfall is a foe, the approach of which no Government can foretell and no prescience can altogether avert; but at the same time it is a foe which can be faced and overcome by prudence and foresight. This is a case in which the Government is fighting the people's battle, and that is the spirit which has animated the Hon'ble Member's statement, which has set forth for the information of all, frankly and without reserve, both the apprehensions we entertain and the reasons for our confident hope that the difficulties will be surmounted.

I desire to endorse what the Hon'ble Member has said, and to add one more reason for the hope which I share with him. He has pointed out the great advantages of our position as contrasted with that of the Government in 1877-78. But, though we have been so fortunate as to escape for nearly twenty years from the severer form of distress, we shall not, if we have now to face it, enter the combat wholly unready or untried. In the first place, we have at hand the results of former experience, in the plans carefully thought out and elaborated when the necessities were still fresh in the minds of men. But, besides, the approach of an enemy is often heralded by a skirmish at the outposts, and our skirmish with famine this summer was sharp and decisive. The distress which

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prevailed in the North-West Provinces this summer assumed dimensions which in other times would infallibly have had disastrous consequences. But the Government of the North-West Provinces unaided, without any dislocation of business, provided for a population so large that the numbers on relief-works for a considerable time exceeded 300,000, in so complete a manner that I think their achievement has never obtained the applause it merited, simply because so few realised what had been done.

This great work was rendered possible by the very circumstances which, as the Hon'ble Member has said, have so much strengthened the hands of Government since 1877, more especially by the increased means of communication. It is to be remembered that in our reliance on our improved means of communication we are enunciating no new opinion. It was the opinion deliberately formed, with the experience of the great famine of 1877 fresh upon them, by the Government of Lord Lytton, who laid it down in the most precise terms that in the increase of railways and canals, but especially of railways, lay the only means open to the Government of meeting attacks of famine on more favourable conditions. I draw attention to it now, both because I am desirous not to let this, my first opportunity, pass of alluding publicly to what Sir Antony MacDonnell and his officers have done, but because it cannot be denied that what they have done can be done again and on a larger scale, if necessary. It is upon the Local Government that, whatever happens, we must rely to carry out the measures that may become necessary, and knowing, as we do, that we can look to the Governments of the Punjab and the Central Provinces with the same confidence that the North-West Government have taught us to expect, we are justified, I think, in our belief that the work will be done, and will be done well.

And as to the share of the Government of India, it is not for us ourselves to enter into the arena and to take

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charge of the operations. We should hamper the proper authorities, and not assist them. Our duty is to devise means for helping the Local Governments with the wider knowledge of the whole circumstances available to us, and to supply the sinews of war where required. The Hon'ble Member has stated how we are already doing all we can in this direction, and I am certain that the North-West Government from their recent experience will bear me out if I engage on the part of the Government of India that, if this is our share of the work, it will be done ungrudgingly and without hesitation.

One word I should like to add as to non-official co-operation. I have seen with much satisfaction that in Delhi, and I think elsewhere, those who possess means have taken steps to combine for the alleviation of the distress of their poorer neighbours. I shall not be suspected of any desire of shirking official responsibility if I welcome most cordially efforts of this kind. In this country the Government must undertake the relief of the people as a whole, and the rules under which it works have been framed so as to reach the really necessitous, both the able-bodied poor and those unable to share in the ordinary forms of active employment by reason of infirmities of body, of sex, or even of social custom; but still, here, as in every country, private benevolence has a long arm which can reach further than the official one, and I rejoice to think that, if need be, it will be outstretched on this occasion. It will be an example of the neighbourly kindness for which the people of India are distinguished.

If, therefore, the worst comes to the worst, I hope we shall have no difficulty in bringing every influence to bear in the common cause. If I may speak from my own feeling in the matter, there is not a man who would not strain his utmost to prevent the loss of a single life. But, just because I feel this so strongly, I also feel that at this present moment our first duty is to keep cool, and not to excite unnecessary fears. The Government,

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I must repeat, have fearlessly and frankly taken the public into their confidence, and I hope that this confidence will be reciprocated, and all who have a share in controlling public opinion, or in distributing information, will avoid exaggeration, and rather lead the people to believe that everything that can be done will be done, both to warn and relieve them.

BANQUET AT ULWAR.

7th Nov. 1896.

[On Monday morning, the 2nd November, the Viceroy left Simla for his autumn tour. His Excellency was accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, Lord Bruce, the Hon'ble R. Bruce, Mr. Babington Smith, Private Secretary, Colonel A. Durand, C.B., Military Secretary, Brigade Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Franklin, C.I.E., Surgeon to the Viceroy, and other members of His Excellency's Staff. Mr. Cunningham, Foreign Secretary, joined the Camp at Ulwar on his return from England. A few quiet days were spent at Delhi, and on the 6th November the Viceroy proceeded to Ulwar. On the following evening Maharaja Jey Sing (a boy of 14) entertained their Excellencies and a large party of guests at dinner at the City Palace. After dinner the Maharajah entered and took a seat to the right of the Viceroy. His Highness proposed the health of the Queen, and then proposed that of their Excellencies in the following terms:—

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I rise to propose the health of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Elgin, and to welcome them with all my heart to my capital. This is the first State in Rajputana that your Excellencies have visited this year, and this adds, if possible, to the pleasure and honour I have in welcoming you. (*Applause.*) Your Excellencies are aware that my father was the first Prince in Rajputana who came forward with offers to aid in the defence of the Empire. These offers were accepted, and in 1888 he raised the present Ulwar Imperial Service Troops. It is well known that my father took the greatest interest in this force, which, from that day to this, has gradually increased in efficiency, and your Excellencies will see them on parade on the 9th instant. The practical usefulness and readiness for active service of this force, equipped, as they are, with full transport, have been testified to by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief when he recently visited Ulwar; and should I ever have the chance, I shall be proud and happy to lead them in the field against the enemies of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India. (*Applause.*) I may mention that my great-grandfather Maharajah Bannai Singh, too, showed his loyalty to Her Majesty during the Mutiny by arresting and handing over to Government fugitive mutineers who sought refuge in his territory, and I assure your Excellencies that Her Gracious Majesty possesses no more loyal supporter and adherent amongst the Princes of India than myself. (*Applause.*) The Stud here too was established by my father, and it partly supplies remounts to the 1st Lancers, as well as transport in part to both the Imperial Service Corps. The Dufferin Hospital

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was established by my father, and has recently been greatly improved by the addition of an operating room and of extra wards, which latter Her Excellency Lady Elgin has graciously consented to open and to allow of their being called the Lady Elgin Wards. The Ulwar Hospital also is now in course of enlargement, and a much needed want will soon be supplied. I trust my guardian, Mr. Manners Smith, who is leaving me soon for England, will enjoy his furlough, and I thank him specially for the great care and attention he devoted to me during my illness. Since the arrival here of my sincere friend, Major Jennings, he has shown personal affection towards me, and I am greatly thankful to him for the sound advice he has ever been ready to give me, and the deep interest he has always taken in my welfare. My only regret is that he is shortly to bid us good-bye. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink health, long life, and prosperity to their Excellencies Lord and Lady Elgin.

The toast was very warmly received.

His Excellency then rose and spoke as follows] :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are greatly indebted to the Maharaja for the kindly words which he has spoken, and for the welcome which he has given to us on our entrance into the first State we have visited in Rajputana. It would be easy, I think, to be eloquent by anticipation, and I have no doubt that it will be easy to be eloquent when I have seen it in regard to the interest and pleasure of a tour in Rajputana, a tour which cannot fail to be interesting, both on account of the history which is to be remembered, of the scenery which we shall view, and of the representatives of a gallant and loyal race whom we shall meet. (*Applause.*) But, ladies and gentlemen, I have seen suggestions that at this moment I ought to be elsewhere. I do not take any exception to these suggestions—I do not resent them in any way—I regard them indeed as not altogether unfriendly, and I can safely say that I have carefully weighed them and considered the arguments they contain; but what I should like to point out is that it is not a light matter to set aside a tour of this description. A tour of the Governor General

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has been one of his regular functions for a very long time, since the days when, if he left Calcutta on a journey of this description, he probably had to be absent for a year or so, and was accompanied by an escort of several regiments. We are able now, owing to the universal peace which prevails throughout the Empire of India, and owing to the greater facilities of travel—we are able to accommodate our retinue in a few railway carriages, and to pass very rapidly from one place to another. But I venture to say that it is of no less importance now than it was then that the representative of the Supreme Government should show himself, and should be known to some extent in all parts of the country. No doubt, as I have said, we can pass through the country more rapidly; but, on the other hand, there are ever-increasing demands of administrative work, which tie my colleagues and myself to our offices and to the Council Chamber for at least ten months out of twelve, and, therefore, it comes to this, that if we do not carry out a tour at the time at which we have arranged to carry it out, that tour must be definitely set aside; because, as you are aware, the period of office of a Viceroy is five years, and such is the extent to which the dominions of the Queen Empress have now reached in India, that it takes a very carefully pre-arranged plan to enable him to visit each part, or most of the important places in Her Majesty's dominions, during his term of office. Therefore, I venture to say that, if a tour is abandoned, it comes to putting aside one-fifth of a definite duty which Her Majesty has entrusted to him. (*Applause.*) I say then that this going on tour is no whim to be undertaken and put down at pleasure. It is a definite duty to be performed, and not to be put aside except for good reasons, and, therefore, the question arises, are there any reasons at the present moment why it should be set aside? Well, I had an opportunity a short time ago of expressing an opinion on the situation, and on the apprehensions of disaster

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which are entertained, and which no doubt are entertained to some extent with reason, with regard to a great part of India. What I ventured to impress upon those who heard me upon that occasion was that it was necessary to be exceedingly cool and deliberate, and not to be hasty in our judgment at the present moment. I see nothing yet to alter my opinion, and what I preach that I wish to practise. (*Applause.*) Nay more, the reports which have reached me since that time have not been altogether unfavourable. I parted only yesterday from the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, and I cannot ascertain from him that, as yet, any real necessity for relief works has arisen in his Province; and that means that no acute distress prevails there at the present moment. In the same way I am in constant communication with the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Provinces, who stands in the fore-front of this battle, and only yesterday I received from him a telegram which was of a distinctly reassuring character. (*Applause.*) There can be no doubt that the advances which we have made for the sinking of *kutch*a wells, and the suspensions of revenue to which we have agreed, have put heart into the people, and that they are facing the position in a manner that deserves the greatest credit and gratitude from us. (*Applause.*) They are industriously preparing the land for the crop which ought to be sown at this moment, and we have every reason to hope and believe that if rain should be vouchsafed to us during the next few weeks, the area that will be seriously affected by distress in the North-West Provinces will be very much more restricted than is commonly supposed, and, in any case, the Lieutenant Governor informs me that not less than 40 per cent. of the area of the *rabi* crop will be sown, and will yield something—he cannot say exactly how much in all cases—but will yield something throughout his Province. And then comes in his telegram a very significant addition, for he says “in the other alternative our arrangements are complete.” (*Applause.*)

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Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, that is the justification for my going on tour. (*Applause.*) I remember well a long time ago receiving a bit of advice from a relative of mine—one of the best men of business I ever knew—and he said “If ever you are put in a position to carry on a big work, if you have good and capable Lieutenants do not try to do their work as well as your own, for you may rely upon it, that if you attempt to do both you will fail in both.” Now, I venture to say that, at the present moment, the Provinces likely to be affected by distress, and the Provinces of India generally, are in the hands of men as capable as any that ever administered those Provinces, and I think I am better not interfering with their work. (*Applause.*) But I have one thing also to add, and that is that every one of these friends of mine—for I think I can claim all as my friends and they know what I mean—are aware that if the time should ever come when my aid, sympathy, and personal presence, will be useful to them, they have only to let me know and I shall be there. (*Applause.*)

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have perhaps to apologise for speaking on what are rather matters of business on an occasion of this kind; but they are matters of such engrossing interest that I felt sure you would not object. I said at the beginning that I had to thank the Maharajah for the kindness of his welcome and for the words which he has spoken. I wish, before concluding, to congratulate him on the manner in which he has spoken, and on the way he has begun to perform the duties which fall to him as the Ruler of his State. (*Applause.*) The Maharajah has found these duties to fall upon him at a comparatively young age—an age on which they do not fall upon every one—but I think I am entitled to say to him that he has my warm sympathy in the matter, for in that I can also speak from experience. The Maharajah has spoken, in a manner which is worthy of his name and of his race, of the

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Imperial Service Troops of which this State has much right to be proud, and I am sure that he has said nothing which he will not be willing to carry out in action, if and when the time should come, when he said that he is ready to take the command of them in peace or in war if need should be. (*Applause.*)

I am sure that it must be a satisfaction to those here who have taken an interest in the Maharajah to see him coming forward as he has on this occasion. It shows that he is not neglecting the opportunities for acquiring knowledge which have been given to him, and if I may venture upon a little bit of advice, as an old man to a younger, I would ask him to persevere in the course he is wisely pursuing at this moment, and I think I can promise that if he will pursue industriously the acquirement of that knowledge which alone qualifies a man to undertake all the great functions which a Ruler of a Native State must perform, and to perform them, as I am sure his abilities will enable him to perform them, well and earnestly, then I should venture to prophesy that he will rank second to none of his race in the love of his people in the days that are to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I give you the health of the Maharajah.

[The toast was very warmly received.]

Major Jennings (the Political Agent) returned thanks on behalf of the Maharajah for the manner in which his health had been drunk. As he, Major Jennings, was about to leave Ulwar, he cordially acknowledged the assistance he had received from the members of the Council of Regency, and the services of Mr. Macdonald, State Engineer, and other officials to the State.]

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE AJMERE
MUNICIPALITY.

10th Nov. 1896

[The Viceregal party, including Mr. R. J. Crosthwaite, Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, arrived at Ajmere at 9 A.M. on the 10th November. At the Railway Station were all the principal Civil and Military Officials of Ajmere, and a number of Chiefs from neighbouring States, and native gentlemen of the District who had come in to meet His Excellency. The Members of the Municipality were also present, and their President, the Revd. Mr. Husband, read an address of welcome to their Excellencies, in which reference was made to the services of the late Lord Elgin to India, and to the Viceroy's efforts to stimulate trade and railway enterprise. The measures proposed to complete the water supply scheme were explained, and the progress that was being made with education and sanitation pointed out.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipality of Ajmere,—I have to express to you my warm thanks for the welcome which you have extended to me to your ancient and historic city, and I am glad to acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and of devotion to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress in whose name I come. I thank you especially for three remarks which you have placed in the fore-front of your address. In the first place, you have reminded me of a fact of which I cannot but be proud, that I come in succession to a line of distinguished men whom, as my predecessors, you have welcomed here; in the second place, you have shown me that you have not forgotten the services of my father, and no son can hear a reference of that kind unmoved; and, in the third place, you have been good enough to express approval of the work, or part of the work, in which I have been engaged.

I do not think that words are necessary to recommend public works to any one who is interested in India. It is true here, if it is true anywhere, that a blessing rests on him who makes two blades of grass grow where

Address of welcome from the Ajmere Municipality.

only one grew before; but it has been held, and I think rightly, that alongside those great works which we class under the head of irrigation, there may be ranked those improvements in the means of communication which the inventions of the last 50 years have put within our reach, and which enable us to penetrate to, and deal with the remotest parts of the country. I am one of those who think that if we have to face the stress of famine, we shall look to our railways as our first line of defence. Nor is that all, for they will enable us to call to our assistance the services of our best ally. It is the settled policy of the Government of India to do nothing that can amount to an interference with the ordinary course of trade, and it was laid down by one of the most acute of my predecessors, who himself had to deal with famine, that though it might be possible to do more than one bunnia, no Government could do so much as all the bunnias together. All the stronger, therefore, is our disposition to follow out the policy thus defined when we know that the means of communication with all parts of the country have been so greatly improved since his day, and I hope and believe that we shall not look in vain to the private enterprise which we know exists in India if the occasion should arise.

Gentlemen, I am exceedingly glad that you can give so satisfactory a report regarding the performance of your Municipal duties. I have spoken on this subject in various parts of India, and I have endeavoured to show the high value which I set on the conscientious performance of those duties. No one knows better than I do that anxieties are inseparable from them, and especially perhaps I may say in the matter of famine, and I am not surprised that you should touch upon this matter in your address. But that is eminently a subject that cannot be disposed of in a sentence. It must be carefully studied in all its bearings and with all knowledge of detail. This

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only I should lay down as a general principle, that works of public utility should be undertaken with a foresight which not only embraces the advantages which lie before us and are obvious, but also the difficulties which have to be faced, and the economy which alone ensures the safe and effectual working of a scheme.

Gentlemen,—I have been so consistently an opponent of extravagance, and, if I may say so, a foe to display, that I scarcely recognise myself when I see it said that I am encouraging Municipal extravagance, and yet I have seen it said with reference to occasions such as this. I, for my part, have a greater faith in local bodies, and in their knowledge and ability to adhere to what is proper, than to say what is called for from them by official ceremony and what would exceed it; but if I may indicate my own feelings in the matter, I would say this, that much as I value these opportunities of intercourse with Municipalities, I would far rather forego that pleasure than that any money should be spent for which there are urgent needs, or which is diverted from its proper purpose.

Gentlemen,—As a stranger to your locality, I cannot usefully go into matters of detail connected with the works you have mentioned in your address, but I should just like to say this that I rejoice exceedingly to hear that you have gone so far in providing the inestimable benefit of a good water supply for your city. I would counsel you to proceed cautiously, and as your means permit, but still, as opportunity will offer, to complete that great work; and I entirely agree with you that it will be necessary as a supplement to have an effective system of sanitation.

Gentlemen,—I do not wish to detain you, but I cannot conclude without a single word to express the gratification with which I have heard of the interest you have taken in the cause of education. If my information is correct, you have in this matter the sympathy of your citizens with you, for I understand that a sum of no less

Distribution of prizes at the Mayo College, Ajmere.

than Rs. 40,000 has been voluntarily subscribed in aid of the expenditure necessary for your College to enable your students to take their B. A. degree there. You will recognise, I am sure, that I can give no promise or pledge on behalf of the Government of India until the case comes before me in due course ; but this I can say, that when it does come before me I will call to mind our interview this morning, and the impression made upon me of the enlightened spirit and liberal subscriptions, of the citizens of Ajmere.

I have only once more, in conclusion, gentlemen, to tender to you, on Lady Elgin's behalf as well as my own our thanks for your kindly greeting.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE MAYO COLLEGE,
AJMERE.

[On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 11th November, the Viceroy distributed the prizes to the students of the Mayo College. Lord Elgin was accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elisabeth Bruce, Lord Bruce, the Hon'ble R. Bruce, Mr. R. J. Crosthwaite and His Excellency's staff. The College is entirely devoted to the education and training of the young Rajput Chiefs and Sardars who reside in it. Colonel W. Loch, the Principal, received their Excellencies and read the report for the year, which dealt with the object and aims of the institution and the manner in which they are carried out. 11th Nov. 1896.]

His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Colonel Loch, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I had an opportunity of asking Colonel Loch last night what he would require of me on this occasion, and he answered that all he would require would be a few kind words. I hope he will not think the worse of me if I take him at his word and my remarks are very few. It would be easy, no doubt, to speak at length on educational topics on an occasion such as this, but I am not quite sure that you would find it a very

Distribution of Prizes at the Mayo College, Ajmere.

enlivening occupation to listen to me, and on a warm afternoon it might have a tendency which would be somnolent. I think, therefore, especially as time is valuable to us, that it will be better for me not to attempt to follow Colonel Loch in the statement he has made regarding the present condition of the school. You have heard from him, and there is before us in the report of the examiners of the school, all the facts and figures, and I think we may take it that they show that the school is thoroughly and completely equipped for the work it has to do, and that it is doing that work under the guidance of Colonel Loch in a thoroughly satisfactory and efficient manner.

What I should like to say a word or two about is what I understand to have been, from the first, the characteristic aim of the school. Colonel Loch, I think, has alluded to it, but I should like to give my impression. I think it will be admitted that the Viceroy to whose suggestion the foundation of this school is due, and whose name it bears, was notable for his friendliness and sympathy with the Princes and Chiefs of India; and it was, therefore, not surprising that he should make the suggestion of which the first aim and object was to make available to the Princes and Chiefs of Rajputana certain advantages which we ourselves in our own country esteem of the highest value to us and to our children. As you are aware there are many objects in education. If you look entirely to the scholastic side, I am not prepared to deny that it might be argued that by keeping a student entirely to himself, and if expense was no object, by providing him with the best possible instructors, you might enable him to acquire a fund of knowledge in the best and the quickest manner. But I am not quite sure that there would not be danger in the process, because I think the human brain is not very different from the human body, and there is a danger of its being overfed; but still, as I have said, I am bound to

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admit that, from that point of view, it might be argued that the best possible results could be obtained by that method of instruction. But, speaking for ourselves, in England we have found that we want more for our sons. Colonel Loch has just now expressed a hope that I do not overlook the value of the physical side of education. I entirely agree with him in that proposition. What we want our sons to acquire is certainly the literary knowledge for which we send them to school, but we also wish them to acquire habits of discipline and self-control, and to cultivate all those faculties of action and of energy which may be summed up in the word manliness. Now our experience has been that, even given the best instructors, boys do not acquire that form of knowledge half so well, or at any rate so completely, from their tutors as they can from one another, and that, I take it, has been the origin of the growth amongst us of the great institutions which we call public schools. Those public schools have been accused of paying too great attention to the physical side of education, of which Colonel Loch has spoken just now. I do not think myself that if a boy and his tutor at a school do their duty properly, the one to the other, that there ought to be any danger of that; but, at the same time, the physical education of the boy is an undoubted part of the whole system of education, and the result has often been expressed in the well known phrase of one of our greatest Generals that "the battles of England have been won in the playing fields of Eton." Now, the problem was how to give these great advantages to the nobility of India and Rajputana. It may be said that the public schools of England are open to any subject of Her Majesty the Queen Empress, and I think there is something captivating in that view of the matter, and we find that it has attracted some of the Chiefs and Nobles of India to send their sons who are now enrolled on the lists of our public schools; but, for my own part, I should not wish to be taken as

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saying that that is a system which should be very widely followed. I have a great belief myself in not separating a boy in his youth too far from the influences of his home and country, and it is impossible with our system in the public schools of England that a boy should go from this country and pass through the whole course there without a separation which I think might be detrimental to his intercourse with his people in the years afterwards; and therefore it was no doubt the idea that occurred to Lord Mayo that a college of this description, planted in your midst, might bring to you, the Chiefs and Nobles of Rajputana, the very advantages which we ourselves have got, and in which we desire that you should participate.

I think, as Colonel Loch has said our thanks are due to the Chiefs of Rajputana for the support they have given to this College, in the first place by the liberal subscriptions which were given at its foundation, amounting I think to something like seven lakhs, and also that, since that time, now 21 years ago, they have sent boys continuously to this College, so that up to the present 263 boys have passed through its course. At the same time I entirely sympathise with the feeling which I know is entertained, and naturally entertained after 18 years' service by Colonel Loch, and other friends of the College, that we might see its advantages still further recognised and its usefulness extended. I should be very glad to see it too, but I am very much of opinion that, in this matter of education, as in many other matters, we must have patience. We must set up our institutions on the best foundations we can devise; we must see that our institutions do good work, and we must let the seed thus sown have time to take root and to bear fruit. I have little doubt that this College, as time goes on, and as its advantages are more fully appreciated, as I believe they will be by the generation which is growing up round us, will grow and extend its usefulness, and that those advantages will be recognised by the Chiefs and Nobles of

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Rajputana. I, for my own part, have no better wish for Rajputana than that this should be the case. I am glad to see on this occasion the ruling Chiefs of Rajputana both among the students and amongst the spectators. To the former, I would say that I am certain that when they come to the years of manhood and have to take upon themselves those responsible duties which will fall upon them as rulers in Native States, they will look back with gratitude to the means placed at their disposal and to the course they have pursued in this College, and that they will perform those duties with satisfaction to themselves, with credit to their name, and for the benefit of their people. The ruling Chiefs who are near me I would ask to look upon the boys who are attending this College, and to say if they do not think that they recognise in them those manly qualities which it has always been a tradition of the rulers of Rajputana to cultivate themselves, and to think whether by supporting this College they will not encourage the growth of those manly qualities in the young people of their States.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is only one other matter to which I wish to refer, and it is one that is very commonly referred to on an occasion of a prize-giving. On this occasion I understand that the College holiday has been altered in some respect in order to make it correspond with our visit, for which I am exceedingly grateful, and in consequence perhaps there may have been a little inconvenience in adhering to the regular and ordinary course of the holidays; and after consulting the Agent to the Governor General I think that I may say that perhaps the best way of remedying that difficulty would be to extend the holidays for a day or two in order to get over any little inconvenience that there may be if the school were to meet again before Christmas. I think that that may be a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. I congratulate Colonel Loch and Mr. Sherring, and the masters of this school, on the

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good report that has been presented, and I can only say that I am exceedingly glad to be present on this occasion and to carry out the honourable task which Colonel Loch has asked me now to perform.

BANQUET AT OODEYPORE.

13th Nov. 1896. [The Viceregal party arrived at Oodeypore on the 13th November, and on the following evening their Excellencies and staff, and a large number of guests, were entertained at dinner at the Shimbu Newas Palace by His Highness the Maharana.

The Viceregal party proceeded to the Palace by boats in order to see the illuminations on the lake, which were surpassingly beautiful. After dinner His Highness, with some of the principal nobles of the State, entered and took his seat by His Excellency. The Viceroy proposed the health of the Queen Empress, after which the Maharana's Private Secretary (Jani Mukend Lall), on behalf of His Highness, read the following speech—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—From the time your Excellency arrived in India, it has been my desire to have the pleasure of making your Excellency's acquaintance. Last year I was desirous that the Oodeypore-Chitor Railway should be opened by your Excellency, in order that I might have the pleasure of meeting your Excellency on an early occasion. But the rains were an obstacle in the way. It is, however, a matter of great satisfaction to me that your Excellency is the first Viceroy and Governor General of India who has travelled by the Oodeypore-Chitor Railway to my capital. My pleasure has been enhanced by the opportunity I now have of welcoming both your Excellency and Lady Elgin with other members of your family. (*Applause.*)

It was not my intention to extend the railway line beyond Debari, since Debari is the natural terminus of the Oodeypore-Chitor Railway. But in honour of Your Excellency's visit to the capital of this ancient State, I take this opportunity to announce that the railway line from Debari will shortly be extended to Oodeypore, and I trust that it may be my privilege to welcome Your Excellency here once more for the purpose of opening the line, when it is ready. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

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On occasions like this, I do not think it is proper to tire my guests with a long speech. I therefore will make only a brief allusion to the Walter Hospital for Women which I am told Her Excellency Lady Elgin will visit to-morrow morning. Her Excellency's kind interest in the great scheme for bringing medical aid to women in this country is well known. The hospital bears the name of my late and esteemed friend, Colonel Walter, who was for many years Resident in Meywar and Governor General's Agent in Rajputana, and it is my hope that the hospital may be the means of alleviating suffering amongst the women of Oodeypore.

I now ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to drink to the health of my honoured guests, the Viceroy and Governor General of India and Lady Elgin.

The toast was very warmly received.

In replying His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows:—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—There is nothing more pleasurable than to find one's anticipations realised, and especially is that the case when our expectations are high, as they were when we approached Rajputana, from the knowledge of the traditional courtesy and hospitality which were ever found there. (*Applause.*) I venture to say, on behalf of all those who are His Highness's guests this evening, that not one of us has been disappointed in his expectations. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not propose to enter on this occasion into any attempt to describe a scene which transcends description. It is said that it is difficult to paint the lily; at any rate I am not going to attempt this evening to picture to you in words the scene which you have witnessed on approaching this Palace. (*Applause.*) To those who have seen Oodeypore, with its palaces, its lakes, its hills, whether glittering in the sunlight, or under the pale ray of the moon, or illuminated, as we have seen it to-night, by countless lights distributed by the artistic taste of man, which we must all admire,—to those who have seen it I say they will carry away a recollection which I venture to think will never leave them; and to those who have not seen it—well, we can only advise them to exercise their imagination with a pretty certain expectation that

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their imagination will fail altogether to convey any idea of the reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—His Highness has justly said that I was invited by Colonel Trevor to be present here when the line from Chitor was opened, and it was with reluctance that I found myself unable to accept the invitation. I esteem myself fortunate that I have been, as he said, the first Viceroy to travel by railway from Chitor to Debari, and I thank the Maharana most cordially for the courtesy he showed me in coming as far as Debari to meet me on that occasion. I also, I can assure him, appreciate very sincerely the compliment he has paid me by announcing thus promptly that the line is not to stop at Debari but will be continued to Oodeypore. (*Applause.*) I venture to hope that the construction of this line of railway will not only be a convenience to those who, like ourselves, are paying His Highness a visit and benefiting by his generous hospitality, but will also be here, as it has so often proved elsewhere, a means of opening up the country, and bringing wealth and prosperity to those who live within it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Maharana has also alluded to one of those works which so befit a ruler—the alleviation of the suffering of the poor, and to the good which is done by the Walter Hospital. I appreciate very much his allusion to the work which Lady Elgin carries on on behalf of the Dufferin Fund. I think it is well known that not only does she take a personal interest herself in this cause, but that also it was a work to which Her Majesty the Queen Empress called her attention before she came to this country, and I know that it is exceedingly pleasant to the Lady President of the Dufferin Fund and the Committee to feel that they have only to ask His Highness for any assistance in the way of affording medical aid in this hospital to be sure that he will meet their request. (*Applause.*) I should just like to add that I know that this is

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not the only work of the kind in which the Maharana takes an interest in this city, because this morning I visited the excellent and well kept hospital which bears the name of my predecessor, and I also visited another one in charge of our friend, Dr. Shepherd, who referred in feeling terms to the sympathy and assistance he had received from His Highness.

There is one other point to which I should like to refer in regard to the Walter Hospital, and that is the feeling allusion in His Highness's remarks to the officer in whose memory it has been named. I think that, in these days, when we sometimes hear that the Political Officer is a dragon who is watching the Native Chief and endeavouring to take advantage of him, it is pleasing to find in this Native State, which is proud of its own traditions and ancestry, that the Maharana has not only erected a memorial to an officer whom he justly calls his friend, but has alluded to it on an occasion like this in the terms which you have heard. (*Applause.*) I can only say in response to a reference of that kind that I can assure His Highness, and any other Ruler of a Native State, that kindly feeling of this kind is deeply felt by the officers of the British Government, who come from afar to do their best in the interest of the Native States of India, and that the Government of India will most assuredly support a ruler who, like the Maharana, is endeavouring to show that a kindly feeling of this nature can and will exist in a State like Oodeypore.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As the Maharana has said, this is not a time for very long speeches, and I will only therefore just in a word again thank him on behalf of Lady Elgin and myself for the very great kindness he has shown us on this occasion of our visit, and to assure him that we have very much enjoyed what we have seen, and shall no less enjoy what we expect to see before we leave this city. Before I sit down, ladies and gentlemen, I

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must ask you to join with me in drinking to His Highness's health with an earnest wish that all prosperity may attend him and the State which he administers. (*Applause.*)

[The evening's entertainment closed with a brilliant display of fireworks on the lake.]

BANQUET AT JEYPORE.

18th Nov. 1896.

[The Viceregal party arrived at Jeypore on the morning of the 17th November, and on the following evening His Highness the Maharaja entertained their Excellencies and a large number of guests at a banquet in the Palace. After dinner the Maharaja entered and took a seat by the Viceroy. His Excellency proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, after which Rai Bahadur Kanti Chunder Mookerjee, the Maharaja's Prime Minister, on behalf of His Highness, read the following speech proposing the health of their Excellencies:—

"*Your Excellencies, Mr. Crosthwaite, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—I have been looking forward with great pleasure to your Excellency's visit to Jeypore, and I am very thankful to God that my expectations have now been realised. I do not know how to thank your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Elgin for the honour you have been pleased to confer on me by paying this friendly visit to my capital, nor can I thank you enough for being pleased to accept my invitation to come and partake of my hospitality to-night. Nothing I believe could impress the mind of a Native Chief with so strong a sense of the importance attached to his position, and nothing could be to him so plentiful a source of just and genuine pride as the honour of being visited in his own home by the august representative of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. I feel it my special good fortune that your Excellency has been pleased to visit my capital at a time when my mind is occupied with thoughts for affording relief to my subjects in this season of scarcity. I cannot express in words how greatly I feel encouraged at this mark of your Excellency's sympathy with me and my people in our dark apprehensions, and how highly I appreciate this opportunity your Excellency has been pleased to afford me of availing myself of your advice. I am confident that after consultation with you my Durbar will be able to carry into effect

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such schemes as will do much to alleviate the sufferings with which my people are threatened. The outlook no doubt is depressing; still it is not hopeless. If the usual December rains are plentiful, the prospects will be much brighter. Last year was one of plenty, almost above the normal, and the existing stocks of food-grains both in the city and in the country are such as to be sufficient in all likelihood for the whole population of Jeypore for more than twelve months. Moreover, it is the general practice here among all classes of people, excepting those that are utterly impecunious or improvident, to store up food grains to the best of their means. Most of these, therefore, will have enough, I believe, to meet their wants till the next harvest. I am also happy to mention that some of the districts of Jeypore had the usual September rains, and their condition in consequence is almost as good as in normal years. Moreover, there is another relieving feature in the present scarcity. Though the last monsoon failed before the crops were fully ripe, the rainfall during July and the first half of August was not much below the average, and hence grass and fodder of all kinds had attained their usual height. There is not, therefore, much want of fodder. So long as the agricultural classes possess food for their cattle used in the plough they never lose heart, and the village money-lender does not hesitate to make advances of money and food-grains to them, so long as they are found able to irrigate their fields. Notwithstanding these relieving features, the market prices of food-grains have lately risen higher than in the worst years of famine ever known in Jeypore. The greedy speculations of the grain-dealers on the one side, and the over-anxiety of the people to add to their stores on the other, have seriously affected the market rates. However, I am happy to mention that the Durbar has now been able to bring the grain-dealers to a better way of thinking, and the rates are now reasonable and steady. If the distress—may God forbid so terrible a misfortune—is found to increase, I have only to adopt the measures recommended in the Famine Code published by the Government of India for the guidance of Native States. I have also on record the steps taken by my illustrious predecessor in a crisis of this nature which happened in his time. These records will also be a great help to me. I think it unnecessary and unwise to adopt very vigorous relief measures at the outset. As long as the people have resources of their own from which they can get a livelihood, the Raj ought to reserve its strength, as far as possible, to cope with the distress should it appear in an aggravated form. Even then the Raj resources should be employed with care, so as to avoid running into needless expenses. The building works which have in the usual course been taken in hand both by the Raj and the richer classes of

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my subjects, and the irrigation works which are in progress in the district, are, I think, quite enough to give employment to ordinary day labourers in and around this capital, and in many parts of the territory. The State Council has under consideration a list of works which could be taken in hand, if necessary, for affording relief to my subjects generally. I am always in favour of irrigation works and railway projects, insomuch as they not only afford present relief, but serve permanently to minimise the evil consequences of years of drought and scarcity. If I can add to this list the projected bund at Ramgarh, the site for which is in a central position in the territory, and also the proposed railway from Jeypore to Sarai Madhopur, which is intended to pass through some of the most important districts, it will, I need scarcely mention, considerably strengthen my hands and enable me to cope with the evil which at present seems impending. I am glad to have this opportunity of submitting to Your Excellency my personal thanks for the great honour you were pleased to do me by increasing my salute of guns in consideration of the services rendered by the Jeypore Imperial Service Transport Corps during the recent Chitral campaign. It is just and proper that, on this occasion, I should say that I feel greatly indebted to my esteemed friend, Colonel Melliss, who has always given me the very best advice, and also to my friends, Colonel Tate and Captain Cookson, who have given me valuable assistance in organising the Corps which has secured for me this high honour. My thanks are also due to the native Superintendent, Rai Bahadur Dhanpatrai, Bahadur, for the care and integrity with which he has managed everything so effectually and, at the same time, economically. I need scarcely mention that I feel greatly interested in the Corps, and that everything will be done to make it more efficient. The loyalty and devotion with which my predecessors, more especially the lamented Maharaja Ram Sing Bahadur, served the paramount Power, and the ample rewards they received in recognition of their services, are too well known to require any mention. As to myself, I most gratefully acknowledge that Government has placed me under lasting obligations by conferring favours on me with an unsparing hand. The high favours I have received at the hands of your Excellency have impressed me with a deeper sense of the duties incumbent on me as ruler of this important State, and as a loyal feudatory of the paramount Power, under the benign protection of which I and my people enjoy so many blessings. I shall deem the objects of my life attained, if, with the benefit of your valuable advice, I succeed in discharging those duties in a satisfactory manner. I beg you will kindly submit to her most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress the sentiments of loyalty and devotion I always entertain for her personally, and for her beneficent rule.

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"Ladies and Gentlemen,—I now beg to propose the health of His Excellency the Viceroy, coupling with it that of Her Excellency Lady Elgin, and I trust you will drink it with the utmost cordiality and join me in wishing their Excellencies health and long life, prosperity, and happiness."

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to convey his welcome to us in terms which are only consistent with the scene which met our eyes when we entered his capital, and I can assure him that the friendly and loyal sentiments which we have heard in the address which has just been read will remain in our recollection in as lively a manner as that of the spacious streets of Jeypore, which were full of matters of ancient and historic interest, side by side with evidences of the progress of modern times ; and I may say that I thank him for the welcome he has given us all the more because I recognise, as running through his address, a spirit of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and of friendly feeling towards myself as her representative in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is not surprising that His Highness has devoted a great portion of his speech to a subject which is exciting much attention everywhere in India at the present time. He told me yesterday, and I am exceedingly glad that he has made the statement public to-day, that, for the present at all events, there is no serious apprehension in Jeypore in the matter of famine. He told me, as he has told you again, that the kharif crop has not only been a fair one—I think it is estimated at something like twelve annas—but he also mentioned a circumstance, namely, that the supply of fodder is good, which I look upon as a matter of no inconsiderable importance. I esteem it important, not only for the reason which His Highness has given, but also because it tends to produce a result which is extremely valuable, namely, to keep up the spirits of the people. I cannot help thinking that nothing would be more likely to affect the spirits of the

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people than to see the dumb animals, upon whom they rely so entirely in their agricultural operations, suffering from a want of sufficient fodder—a suffering made all the more pathetic by the feeling that it is impossible to supply the lack of the sustenance which they so much need. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Maharaja has also made a statement with regard to the stock of food which is to be found in Jeypore at the present moment, and we must be exceedingly glad to hear his estimate that there is enough food-grain to provide for the whole population for a period of twelve months. The question of the supplies of food-grain is one which has engaged a good deal of attention, and has caused a good deal of discussion. Well, I am not prepared to deny that there may be other parts of the country which may not be so fully provided for as Jeypore. As the Maharaja tells us, Jeypore started with a good season last year, and that was not the case in other parts of India, but still all the evidence I have seen tends in the direction of showing that the stocks of grain are larger than the alarmists would like us to think. It is not very easy to obtain absolutely accurate information upon a matter of this kind, and all I can say is that the Government of India, and the Local Governments, are taking every step that they can to obtain information; but, so far as the information before us goes, we have no reason to depart from what I described the other day as the settled policy of Government, namely, a policy of reliance on, and non-interference with, the ordinary machinery of trade. Personally I am not inclined to be surprised that there has been a period of uncertainty and of somewhat excessive prices, but I am inclined to think that that period is coming to an end. If the rain should fall in time to allow of a rabi crop—well, I think some people would burn their fingers; and if it does not fall, I have every confidence that the trade, both internal and external, will rapidly adapt itself to the circumstances of the great emergency

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which we shall then have to face. I cannot pass from this subject without a word of acknowledgment to the State of Jeypore for its loyal adherence to the policy of the Government of India in this matter. I understand that the State has had to deal with circumstances of some special difficulty, and I was glad to hear the Maharaja say that he thought the worst of those difficulties had now been overcome. Ladies and Gentlemen, I think His Highness and the Council are well advised, even if they do think that the prospects are not so gloomy in the immediate future, to be prepared with a programme of works should famine come upon them; and, in response to the Maharaja's appeal, I can assure him that any help which the Government of India can afford will be most unreservedly at his disposal. (*Applause.*) His Highness is well known to have long taken an interest in irrigation works, and I should venture to hope that, in a season like this, he is reaping some of the benefits which he is entitled to expect from that enterprise. He has done already a great deal. I find in the reports that there are no less than 138 irrigation works, either completed, or in progress, in the State of Jeypore, and that 104,000 bighas are irrigated from those works. I was aware that His Highness had another large work of this kind in progress which he was very anxious to undertake. Well, I do not ever like to make a promise until I am quite certain that I can fulfil it, and, therefore, I should prefer to give nothing in the way of a promise until I see the papers in the case; but this I shall say, that I shall be much disappointed indeed if I am not able to assist in the attainment of the wishes of the Maharaja in a matter of this kind. I can say this even more strongly in connection with the railway project in which His Highness is interested, because there I know a good deal of the facts of the case; but all I will say to-night is that, in my opinion, the first object of the new through line from Nagda to Muttra should

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be to enable connections with the Native States and the lines of railway in the Native States to be constructed in the manner most suitable and convenient for the interests of those States. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Maharaja and his Council are to be congratulated on the administration of the State, and I say so not in one branch only—the branch of which I have now been speaking, for I find that in other directions—in the local educational institutions which are of so great importance to the people—the Government of this State has been conspicuous for the energy it has shown, and unsparing of expense in carrying out those objects. (*Applause.*) The splendid Museum under the care of Dr. Hendley is widely known. I am looking forward with great interest to a visit to that institution, and, therefore, I will not say more until I have seen it; but you will notice, from what His Highness has said, that in addition to these duties to his own State, he does not forget the duties he owes to the Paramount Power. You have heard the emphatic declaration he has made on that subject this evening, and I need add nothing to it; but I should like to say that I am exceedingly glad to have this opportunity of tendering to him in person my congratulations on the excellent work which his Transport Corps did in Chitral last year and the great help it gave to the Government of India on that occasion. I may congratulate His Highness also on the increase in his salute which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress was pleased to sanction, and which I know has caused him gratification. I should also like to thank him for the practical turn which he has given to the manifestation of his pleasure by the increase which he has already sanctioned to the Transport Corps, and I know, from all that Colonel Melliss has told me, that that corps is so efficient that it will be ready to do as good work the next time it is called upon. (*Applause.*)

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Ladies and Gentlemen,—I now ask you to join with me in drinking long life, health, and prosperity to a Chief who has told you this evening of the loyalty he entertains towards his Sovereign, and the devotion he feels to the people under his charge. (*Applause.*)

BANQUET AT BIKANIR.

[On Saturday morning, the 21st November, their Excellencies the 21st Nov. 1896. Viceroy, Lady Elgin, and party arrived at Bikanir, where they were received by His Highness the Maharaja (a youth of 16) and the principal Thakurs of the Bikanir State. This was the first occasion on which a Viceroy had visited Bikanir, and the fact was emphasized by the circumstance that rain was falling when His Excellency arrived, which was regarded as a happy augury by the people, in view of the general scarcity which threatened the country. In the evening His Highness the Maharaja entertained their Excellencies and a number of guests at a Banquet at the Palace. At the conclusion of dinner the Maharaja entered, and, after a short interval, proposed the health of the Queen-Empress. His Highness then proposed the health of their Excellencies in the following speech, which he delivered with remarkable fluency and self-possession:—

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is my great good fortune to be the first Chief of Bikanir who has had the honour of receiving the Viceroy of India. (*Applause.*) It is such a very real honour.

In proposing the health of Lord and Lady Elgin I bid them welcome with all my heart, and thank them most sincerely for coming.

I wish to assure you all of the loyalty which I myself and my people feel towards the British Government. (*Applause.*)

It is not for me to dwell upon what the Chiefs of Bikanir have done, but what I do want to say is this, that we shall be always ready to show our loyalty, and are really longing to have the chance of doing so, and I feel sure that the men of these rolling sand-hills and almost barren plains, will, if called upon, show that they are made of the right stuff. (*Applause.*)

I stand before you, Ladies and Gentlemen, but a boy, with all my work and all my trials before me. It is my most earnest wish that I should prove myself worthy of the position in which I have been placed. I want not only to be the ruler of my people but their friend, and their best friend too. I do not mean to waste all the money that I get from them on my own pleasures. Any one who knows Bikanir

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knows how hard the life is and how seldom the year of plenty comes. I intend that they shall be treated kindly and justly, and that they should, as far as is practicable, enjoy the fruits of their own labours. What I shall look forward to is this, that a successor of your Excellencies may, at some future date, honour me with a visit, and if he should then express his approval of what I have been doing, I shall indeed be happy. (*Applause.*)

I would take this opportunity of saying how grateful I am to my guardian, Mr. Egerton, for all that he has done for me in the last eighteen months. He has taught me to ride and to shoot. I used not to care much for either, and now I am awfully fond of both. (*Applause.*) He has taught me many more things, and his kindness is more than I can express; and it will indeed be a sad day for me when he has to leave Bikanir.

I must not forget the Political Agents who had charge of me in my childhood, Sir A. Talbot, Mr. Bayley, and Colonel Loch, and who have done so much for me. (*Applause.*) I can on no account omit to mention my very great friend, Colonel Vincent, the present Political Agent, who since he came here in April last has been simply kindness itself to me, and who, though perhaps it is a selfish wish, I earnestly hope may long make Bikanir his home. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The health of their Excellencies.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied in the following terms.—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I esteem myself very fortunate to find myself in Bikanir and the recipient of the kindly greeting which the Maharaja has just given us. When I was first settling my tour in Rajputana this season, it was impressed upon me by a mutual friend of the Maharaja and myself, that I must by no means omit a visit to Bikanir. It was pointed out to me that I had an opportunity which none of my predecessors had of paying a visit to this State, and thereby a chance of attaining one of the great objects of modern days by establishing a record; and, beyond all that, I was assured that I should find great pleasure in making the acquaintance and securing the friendship of His Highness, and I hope that before I depart, I shall have succeeded in doing so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I could not help thinking, when I stepped from the railway carriage this morning, and

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felt the rain-drops falling upon my head, that that was a matter of happy augury, more especially as I understand that it is very seldom that a welcome of that kind is extended to the visitor to Bikanir. (*Laughter.*) But if such a welcome is seldom extended to the visitor to Bikanir, seldom is it that rain has been so anxiously looked for in many parts of India as it has been during the last few weeks, and I am glad to think that though the rain we have had here to-day has not done very much more perhaps than somewhat reduce the temperature; still, from the reports which have reached me during the last two days, I am able to say that, in several parts of the Bombay Presidency where rain was most required, rain has fallen amounting to about five inches; that rain seems to be creeping up the eastern coasts of Madras to the districts in that Presidency most affected, and that rain, I believe, is falling steadily in Jodhpore. Moreover, the Meteorological Department seem to hope that rain may extend further into the interior of the country. (*Applause.*) I cannot help thinking that every one here present will feel that that is a matter for which we must one and all be thankful,—we who are concerned with the Government of India because of the relief which we hope we may expect to some part of our anxieties, and all of us because we know that if this rain is good and effective, it means the averting of distress from millions of our fellow-subjects in India. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I do not mean to make a business speech on an occasion of this kind, but I should only just like to remark that the mere fact that we find ourselves carried here by a railway shows, I think, that the administration of this State is energetic. And they are not content with carrying us here. I believe that they fully intend to carry us still further, and that their ambition will not be satisfied until they have connected their lines with the great railway systems of the North of

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India. (*Applause.*) Before I left Simla I also heard that arrangements were complete for the commencement of irrigation works on the Ghuggur jointly with the Punjab Government, a scheme which I understand from those well qualified to judge is one which is of the highest importance to the State of Bikanir. (*Applause.*) These are matters in which I do not merely venture to hope, but feel assured from what he has said this evening, that His Highness will take, as time goes on, a deep interest for the benefit of his people as well as for himself; but I also think that he will do wisely in the meantime in pursuing the course he is now following in acquainting himself with those methods of administration which he is bound to adopt when the full charge of the State falls into his hands. I am sure that he feels, as he has told you, that he will receive from the Political Agent and his guardian every help they can give him in acquiring that knowledge, and I am certain he will find that the acquirement of that knowledge will, when he comes to take charge of the State, put him in the best possible position for realising those high hopes to which he has given expression this evening. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am confident that the appearances which His Highness has made to-day, in the durbar, on the parade ground, and here at this table, gives every promise that, when his time comes, he will fitly discharge the duties of the Ruler of this State. (*Applause.*) It may be that it will, as he himself has said, be one of my successors who will come to congratulate him on his doings as the *de facto* Ruler of Bikanir, but I can assure him that, however far I may be, I shall hope to maintain a friendly interest in his welfare, and I shall look with pleasure on the success which I have no doubt he will achieve when he assumes the administration of this State. (*Applause.*)

I, therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, ask you to join with me in drinking long life, health, and happiness to His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir. (*Applause.*)

OPENING A ZENANA HOSPITAL AT JODHPORE.

[The Viceroy arrived at Jodhpore on Tuesday morning, the 24th 24th Nov. 1896. November, and in the afternoon the Countess of Elgin opened the new Zenana Hospital in the city. Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Adams read a statement to the effect that the hospital, which was in course of completion, was to be named the Jaswant Hospital for women, being founded by the Jodhpore Durbar in memory of the late Maharaja Sir Jaswant Singh. Generations ago it was the palace of the Maharaja of the time, and was now being converted into a capacious and comfortable hospital for purdah and other women. Her Excellency formally opened the hospital by turning a key in the lock of an adjacent door. The Viceroy (who was suffering from the effects of a cold) spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is my function in any meeting connected with the Dufferin Association to act as the voice of the Lady President, but though I have often felt very inadequate to the duty, I have never felt so much so as this evening, when my voice has temporarily left me. I hope, therefore, you will allow my remarks to be few, and excuse my tones if they are somewhat gruffer than would be warranted by the nature of the sentiments which I desire to express.

I do not think it necessary for me to say anything on the general question. Our being here to-day, the interest which has been taken by the Durbar in setting aside and equipping this building, and the fact that it is a memorial of His Highness's father—all these signs show that the need for giving medical aid to the women of Jodhpore is well appreciated by those in authority. I need only say that the Committee of the Dufferin Fund welcome any co-operation which they receive in this matter, and that Her Excellency has seen with great pleasure, in more than one Native State, that efforts are being made similar to those which we are inaugurating to-day. On behalf of Lady Elgin, therefore, I need only say that she takes it as a very great compliment that the arrangements were so timed as to enable her to be present at the inauguration of this

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hospital. Having been over it, I can bear out the statement read by Dr. Adams regarding its excellent equipment and suitability for its work, and it is Lady Elgin's earnest hope that the benefits derived from this institution will be rapidly appreciated in the city and will increase ever during its continuance.

I have only to thank you again on behalf of Her Excellency for the compliment you have paid her in asking her to open this hospital.

 BANQUET AT JODHPORE.

25th Nov. 1896. [On the evening of Wednesday, the 25th November, His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpore entertained their Excellencies and the staff, and a large number of guests, at dinner in the Maharaja's Bungalow. At the conclusion of dinner His Highness, accompanied by Maharaj Sir Pratap Singh, Maharaj Kishore Singh, Major Hurgi Singh, and other Thakurs, entered and took a seat near the Viceroy. His Highness having proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, read the following speech proposing that of their Excellencies :—

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Under the benign rule of our Empress, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, we are all happy. May she long live to rule over us.

Allow me to express my gratitude to your Excellencies for honouring my capital with a visit, and to state the pleasure I feel at your staying in my house. (*Applause.*)

I was very unfortunate in losing my worthy father early in life, but in Her Majesty's Government I have parents as kind.

My esteemed father did all he could to make Marwar and its people happy, by reforming every branch of the administration, in which he was warmly supported by all the local Political officers, and ably served by my uncle, Sir Pratap Singh, aided by the Council and the hearty co-operation of the people. (*Applause.*)

He won the hearts of the people and the good-will and the esteem of the Paramount Power.

As a mark of his staunch loyalty he raised the Imperial Service Cavalry, which your Excellency reviewed this morning, and which has attained efficiency owing to the personal interest taken in it by my uncle, Sir Pratap Singh. (*Applause.*)

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It is my earnest wish to follow my father's example in his care for the people, and it will be a proud day for me if I am called upon to lead the pure-blooded Rathore Cavalry of Marwar against any enemy of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

Giving your Excellencies the heartiest welcome, and thanking again Lady Elgin for her kindness in opening the new Jaswant Hospital for women, as also all the ladies and gentlemen who have been kind enough to grace this happy occasion, I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in drinking the health of our noble guests, Lord and Lady Elgin. (*Applause.*)

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In this the last State which I shall have the pleasure of visiting in Rajputana on this occasion, I am glad to recognise, in the speech which His Highness has just delivered, the spirit which I expected to find in Rajputana, and which I have found there. The traditional loyalty of Rajputana is the key-note of the speech which His Highness has delivered. (*Applause.*) He has claimed it for his father, for his people, and for himself, and in Her Majesty's name I beg to thank him. I should like, as this is the last of these occasions, to take this opportunity of thanking the people of Rajputana for the reception which they have given me wherever I have gone. Whether through the crowded streets of cities, or through the country roads, I have met everywhere the same frank courtesy and outspoken greeting, so that I think the people do share the sentiment which His Highness has expressed, and that in the benign rule of our Empress they are happy. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—His Highness has mentioned one single mark of loyalty shown by his distinguished father in raising the two splendid regiments of Imperial Service Cavalry which we saw on parade this morning, and of which His Highness is so justly proud. (*Applause.*) I have had considerable opportunities of seeing Imperial Service troops. Indeed, if I set aside Kashmir and Kattiawar, two parts of the country which I have not yet had a chance of visiting, I think I am right in saying that I

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have seen on parade all the Corps of Imperial Service troops except three, and one of these I hope to have the pleasure of seeing within the next few days. Now, do not be alarmed, or imagine that I am going to pose before you as a military critic. If I have any opinions as to the military characteristics of these Corps, I hope I am prudent enough to keep them to myself. If I wished to go into matters of military detail, I should call upon my friend Colonel Melliss to enter upon that part of the subject. He is an officer who has watched over this movement from its infancy; he holds the highest appointment in connection with it, and is therefore entitled to speak with authority; he possesses the confidence of the Government of India, and has justly earned, by his friendly co-operation, the confidence of the chiefs with whom he has been brought into contact. (*Applause.*) I would only just say this in his name, and I know it is a thing he himself would say if called upon, and that is how much is due to Colonel Tate and the other officers connected with him in the inspection of the Corps of Rajputana for the creditable efficiency which we have found in them. (*Applause.*) But, ladies and gentlemen, I esteem myself fortunate that, at this stage of my acquaintance with Imperial Service troops, I have come to Rajputana. In the course of a few weeks I have seen the gallant men of Ulwar with their soldierlike bearing and precision; I have seen the noted Transport Corps of Jeypore with its proved efficiency and unsurpassed equipment; I have seen the unique and interesting Camel Corps of Bikanir—a notable example of making the best use of the resources of the country; and, this morning, I have seen, in two splendid regiments of light cavalry, the famous Rathore horsemen of Marwar. (*Applause.*) I think that is a notable progress—a succession of typical Corps; but there was also another most interesting circumstance connected with these Corps. I have found in three of them young chiefs taking command on parade who had not yet

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fully assumed the responsibilities of their position, but who, on this subject, have spoken out like men, and have declared their determination of adhering to the policy of their fathers in this matter, and of fostering the same spirit of loyalty. (*Applause.*) I welcome this evidence of the vitality of this feeling, and I am the more anxious to say so because it has fallen to my lot, on more than one occasion, to decline on behalf of the Government of India offers of service of Imperial Service troops. I hope that when I did so there was no doubt from my reply that I fully appreciated the spirit in which these offers were made; and I should like to say further that I can fully understand, when there are wars and rumours of wars, that keen soldiers like Sir Pratap Singh do not like to sit at home. But in these matters it appears to me that the primary object is the first thing to consider. Now, there was one thing that was not the object in the institution of the Imperial Service Corps, and that was to relieve the Government of India at the expense of the Native States of what I may call their ordinary military duty in the protection of this great Empire. No, the troops were to remain as a Corps enlisted from natives of the State, under the control of the chief and commanded by their own officers. The object was outside ordinary duty; it might be put in the words "the integrity of the Empire." When that emergency occurs I can assure those interested in the Imperial Service troops that their places are assigned to them and that they will be there. (*Applause.*) And if we shall then value the material assistance of the 20,000 men thus at our disposal, we now value even still more the moral support which these men are giving to us in the face of the world, and we are entitled to say that if a foe should ever have the presumption to come thundering at the gates of India, we shall rely not only on the might of Britain, not only on the Native Army whose efficiency has been proved again and again, and not least in the terrible

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heat of this last summer in the Suakim, but we shall also rely on our allies, the chiefs of India, who, by raising, equipping, and maintaining in efficiency the Corps of Imperial Service troops, have shown that they share with us the determination to maintain intact the Empire of India. (*Loud and continued applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am afraid I have been wandering into large subjects. I rose for two purposes. I rose in the first place to thank the Maharaja for the welcome he has given to us here, and for the speech in which he has proposed our health; and I rose, in the second place, to ask you to drink the Maharaja's health. The Maharaja has now reached a period in life which is one that I think we are apt after a little time to look upon with regret that it passes so quickly and can never be recalled. It is a period when, without the responsibilities of manhood, one is able to acquire those habits of application, of self-control, of order, which are the means of success in after-life. I cannot express my wishes for the Maharaja in more sincere terms than by saying that I hope he will make good use of this period, and that the time will come when, after a long and happy rule in Marwar, some one may be able to speak of him in the terms which he himself has justly used of his father to-night. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I give you the health of His Highness the Maharaja.

OPENING A RAJPUT SCHOOL AT MANDOR.

[On Thursday afternoon, the 26th November, the Viceroy visited 26th Nov. 1896. Mandor (the ancient capital of Marwar) and opened a school for boys there. A number of visitors from Jodhpore were present. Maharaj Sir Pratap Singh addressed His Excellency, the Maharaja of Jodhpore, and the visitors, in a speech in the vernacular, of which the following is a translation :—

"Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The people of Jodhpore have become more alive to the advantages of education, and recently many classes of the community have established schools for the education of their children, aided by a grant from the Durbar. We have at present but one school for the education of Rajputs in particular,—namely, the Powlett Nobles' School, which is a preparatory institution for the Mayo College, and is, therefore, a somewhat select school for the benefit of the more well-to-do. Being anxious that the great body of Rajputs should not fall behind in the race for knowledge, we formed the idea of starting another school at which the sons of the poorer Rajputs would be taught. The institution is to raise generally the standard of knowledge and physical fitness of the pupils according to their bent of mind and taste, so as to increase their chances of success in whatever line of life they may follow, and at the same time give them opportunities of fitting themselves for employment in the Durbar civil and military services. The course of instruction will begin with the local language and pass on to other languages, such as Sanskrit and English. It will embrace the elementary study of history, geography, mathematics, and survey, up to the middle class standard, as also such special subjects as handbooks on police duties, agriculture, and drill, and on the Civil, Criminal, and Revenue Codes of Marwar. The physical exercises will comprise drill, gymnastics, cricket, fives, football, and hockey. There will be a superintendent and a teaching staff of one head-master and four other teachers, so, as it is not proposed to have more than fifty pupils at first, this will give a proportion of ten pupils to one master. The Durbar has generously made over this fine old palace for the use of the school ; it will provide the residential quarters, dining hall, and playground for the boys ; the class rooms will be in the large unfinished building in the ground, which is to be completed for the purpose. The capital required for the endowment of the school is being raised by subscriptions from Rajputs, and some of the highest standing, not only in Marwar but in other States, have responded to the invitations to join in the undertaking. His Highness the Maharaja has very generously contributed Rs. 10,000. The Durbar has added a grant-in-aid of

Opening a Rajput School at Mandor.

Rs. 20,000. The capital raised will be invested in loans to Rajput landholders, and Rajputs will, therefore, in different ways, be doubly benefited by the institution, as they will obtain more favourable interest than is otherwise obtainable as well as having their youths instructed. The accounts of the School Endowment Fund will be kept by the State Treasury Department, and will be open to inspection by a committee of Rajputs. The Durbar hopes that, as your Excellency has kindly consented to open the school, you will permit it to bear your name, and be known as "The Elgin Rajput School." At the same time I am to request Your Excellency to unveil the portrait of yourself, which is to be hung in the school-house."

Sir Pratap Singh's remarks were warmly applauded.

His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Anyone who is interested in a community is always glad to see efforts made for the promotion of education, and as one who desires to be a sincere well-wisher of the State of Jodhpore, it has given me great pleasure to be here to-day and to take part in this interesting ceremony. As I understand the matter, this institution is a recognition on behalf of the Rajputs that if they do not do something, they are in danger of being left behind in the race for knowledge, and that means putting them at a disadvantage in this time and century. I am exceedingly glad to hear that the wealthier Rajputs are prepared to come forward and subscribe liberally to the maintenance of an institution like this, and it is a great pleasure to know that the Government of this State have put at the disposal of those who are promoting this scheme a building which so entirely answers to our idea of the seclusion required, and which is most suitable for educational pursuits. This building, as I understand it, is destined, not for the wealthier Rajputs, who have opportunities elsewhere, but for the poorer members of that community; and I trust that the benefits which the Mayo College has conferred upon those who are able to attend that institution will be continued in due proportion to those who attend this school.

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I had an opportunity at the Mayo College the other day of expressing my sense of the value which school life affords to boys, and I will not therefore enter into the matter again here. I would only say that there is no reason to suppose that it is not as valuable to those who will be called upon in after-life to pursue the humbler duties of the community, and I trust that the boys who are educated in this institution will turn out all the better citizens and do their work well, and with credit to the institution which we are opening to-day.

In conclusion I have only to thank Sir Pratap Singh for the compliment he has done me in asking me to allow my name to be connected with this institution, and I have great pleasure now in declaring it to be open.

BANQUET AT BARODA.

[The Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin and party arrived at Baroda on the 27th November, and on the following evening His Highness the Gaekwar entertained their Excellencies and a large number of guests at a banquet in the Lakshmi Vilas Palace. His Highness entered after dinner and proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, remarking that on the present occasion the pleasure of doing so was enhanced by the fact that Her Majesty's reign was now the longest and most glorious in the history of England. May Her Majesty, His Highness said in conclusion, be long spared to rule over her vast Empire. After the toast had been duly honoured, His Highness again rose and proposed the health of their Excellencies. Ten years, he said, had rolled by since he had had the pleasure of welcoming their Excellencies' distinguished predecessor, Lord Dufferin, who was the first Viceroy to visit Baroda. Whatever changes might have taken place in the country during that period, in one respect there was no change : Baroda was as firm and unflinching in its loyalty as it had ever been. Indeed, reverence and affection for the Sovereign Lady was growing deeper every day. It was, therefore, a matter of peculiar pleasure to welcome their Excellencies on this occasion and to propose the toast of their health.]

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In replying to the toast the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I can assure His Highness that I came to Baroda with the full intention of enjoying myself. I had had the pleasure of receiving a very cordial invitation from His Highness, and I looked forward, as I am glad to hear he looked forward, to renewing the acquaintance which I made last year and I hope allowing it to ripen; and I have to thank His Highness for the reception which he has given us in his capital, and for the kind words in which he has proposed our health. I may confess that a slight incident which happened yesterday somewhat raised my spirits. I happened to look out of the window of the railway carriage early in the morning to take a last glimpse of Rajputana, from which I was carrying away pleasant memories, and I saw rain falling on the beautiful hills around Mount Abú and a rainbow set in the clouds. I confess that never did the emblem of hope seem so welcome to me as it did then. (*Applause.*) I was leaving a country where the rain which had fallen had, I believe, averted any serious danger of distress or difficulty, and I could not but feel that the rainbow was harmonious with the dearest wish of my heart, that that inestimable blessing might be extended throughout a great part of the country. (*Applause.*) So far as my personal experience has gone I have not been disappointed. I halted at Palanpur and I had the pleasure of an interview with the Chief there, and he spoke in cheerful tones of the condition of his territory. I halted at Ahmedabad and had a talk with the respected gentleman who is the head of the municipality there, and he was also equally confident with regard to that important district; and now I have come to fertile Guzerat, and I have the assurance of His Highness that there is nothing in the state of affairs here which causes him alarm, or with which he is not prepared to deal. (*Applause.*) There is one circumstance to which I should like to direct attention. I have had before me

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the figures of the rainfall during this last disturbance, It is somewhat remarkable that that storm has visited the parts of the country where it was most wanted. It has visited the Deccan ; it has passed through the Central Provinces ; it has been felt in the North-Western Provinces ; it has penetrated to the Patna Division in Bengal, and I hope and believe also that rain has extended far enough north in Madras to reach the most affected districts in that Presidency. Even in the Punjab, which I would willingly have included in my list, I know that rain has fallen in the Division of Delhi, where I saw with my own eyes the necessity for it. (*Applause.*) Now, the circumstance to which I would direct your attention is this, that though the rainfall has not been uniform, and though I dare say there are few if any districts which would not be able to say that they would be glad to have more, and others in which the fall has been slight, still the reports which have reached me are uniform in one respect, and that is that they all say that the prospects of the rabi crop are materially improved, and that the area which will be sown will almost certainly be increased. (*Applause.*) Now, I have spoken with sobriety of judgment in the circumstances of the moment, and I should be the last man to wish to appear over-sanguine, and I will admit that the rain which has fallen, timely and beneficial though it has been, has not swept away all our anxieties, or removed the necessity for measures of relief. The Government is ready as regards measures of relief, and I know that Your Highness and the Chiefs of Rajputana are ready also. (*Applause.*) But I am bound to say that this has strengthened my belief in the sufficiency of the supplies of food available to meet the necessity. I always myself was sceptical as to the deficiency, but now that the rabi crop with normal conditions during the next two months is fairly assured, I venture to say that any doubts may vanish ; and it is perhaps not inopportune that I should mention this

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here in the great city of Baroda, because I am well aware that it is the inhabitants of the great cities that have most felt the pinch of high prices, and I hope and believe that they will soon share in the opinion which I have just expressed. (*Applause.*)

Your Highness, there is one difficulty in visiting a State which, like this, is under enlightened management, and that is that one feels somewhat at a loss for a subject on which one may speak. One does not wish either on the one hand to discourage honest effort by criticism, or on the other hand to deprive it of the stimulus to exertion by any undue flattery. But *Your Highness* has been good enough to supply me with certain information with regard to the progress of matters in Baroda during recent years, and I venture to say that the record ought to be satisfactory to *Your Highness*. It shows that progress has been made in many directions. I will only mention one—one which everybody knows is of great interest to *His Highness*,—that is to say, in the matter of education. I think there could scarcely have been a more interesting sight than that of this afternoon, when we saw, I think, some 4,500 children assembled in the grounds of the College. It would take up too much of your time for me to enumerate even the many ways in which *His Highness* has aided the educational progress of his State, or to comment on the figures and percentages which show the extent to which the subjects of his State have taken advantage of these opportunities. There is one side of the educational question on which I should like to say a word or two, because it is a side which I think was brought most prominently before us this afternoon. Both in the specimens of work which we saw in the central hall, and also in the songs sung to us by the girls outside, we saw the practical application of educational processes. Now, we have a difficulty in England which finds expression in the phrase, "What are we to do with our sons?" I confess that

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when I first saw the figures with regard to educational progress in Baroda, I was inclined to think that the question here might be, "What are we to do with our literary young men?" Much, I think, can be done to diminish this danger by regarding the true position of education. I, for my part, have always been a decided foe to the doctrine that if you cannot find literary work for a boy you had better not educate him at all. (*Applause.*) In my opinion the cultivation of the intellectual and moral faculties of a human being can never do any harm, and that reason should guide the hand of the potter, or carver, or ploughman, as it also must guide the hand of the artist and sculptor. It is all a matter of degree and method. Therefore it is that I was exceedingly glad to find the importance given in Your Highness's system to technical education, and the importance that is attributed both to the cultivation of the arts which are indigenous to Baroda, and to those which may be usefully introduced here, and also to the fact that the young girls in the songs they learn in their early childhood are taught to exalt the merits of their domestic duties and the virtues of cleanliness and order. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to ask you to join with me in drinking to the health of His Highness the Gaekwar. (*Applause.*) I have always thought that there was something peculiarly attractive in the position of a Ruling Chief in India. He has great powers, and it is for himself to determine how he will use them; but I cannot imagine a more engrossing task than for a ruler to live amongst his people, to familiarise himself with their sentiments, to guide their impulses, and to devote his revenues to their advantage. (*Applause.*) I have pointed out to you one of the directions in which His Highness has sought to do his duty. I do not mean to say for a moment that he has not sought other directions. I could point to means of communication which have been opened, and on Monday I am

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to take part in the commencement of a railway the promoters of which I know willingly acknowledge the obligations under which they lie to the Gaekwar. Few cities, like the city of Baroda, can boast of the free gift of a water-supply. But it is unnecessary for me to accumulate instances. I am sure you will all willingly join with me in drinking health, long life, and prosperity to His Highness the Gaekwar, and may he continue to grow in the affections of his people. (*Applause.*)

OPENING THE NEW COURT BUILDINGS AT BARODA.

30th Nov. 1896. [The new Court buildings at Baroda, erected as a memorial to the late Maharani Chinnabhai, were opened by the Viceroy at midday on the 30th November. His Excellency, in addressing His Highness the Gaekwar and those present, took the opportunity of referring to an unfortunate accident which had happened on the previous Saturday evening, when two large crowds, which were assembled to view the fireworks, in attempting to cross a bridge at the main entrance of the gardens from opposite directions, came into collision, twenty people being crushed to death and several seriously hurt.

His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness,—Before I proceed to carry out your wishes and to declare this building open, I desire, with your permission, to take this the last public opportunity which I shall have in this city to express my sympathy with Your Highness and with the citizens of Baroda at the sad and untoward accident which was the only blot upon the successful proceedings of Saturday. It so happened that I did not pass through the gardens in the late evening, and therefore I was unaware of what had happened till yesterday morning; but I had passed through the gardens several times earlier in the day, and I had mentioned to Your Highness, and to others, my wonder not only at the size of the crowd, but at the happy and

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orderly manner in which they were evidently enjoying the various entertainments which Your Highness's kindness had provided for them. I am sure it must be a deep grief that one of those sudden movements to which large crowds of this kind are notoriously liable should have brought about so sad a result; but it is not for me now to examine into the causes. I have only to express, what I am sure must have been the first feeling of every one when they heard the news, the deep concern and grief which we all feel for the victims themselves and for their families and dependents. (*Hear, hear.*) I know that was the feeling which was present to Your Highness yourself, because you were good enough to pay me a visit almost immediately after you received the news, and I know that your first thought was to visit the sufferers in the hospital and to make such enquiries as would enable you to make proper provision for the families of those who, alas! are themselves beyond human aid.

I should have wished to have shared in that good work, but as Your Highness desires to take it upon yourself, I have only to express my deep sympathy with you, and my sense of the kind and charitable feelings which have animated your heart. (*Hear, hear.*)

And now, Your Highness, I have to present this key to the Chief Justice, and to declare this Hall open as a place for the sacred administration of justice, and as a worthy memorial of the distinguished lady whose name it is to bear. (*Applause.*)

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE SURAT
MUNICIPALITY.

30th Nov. 1896. [His Excellency the Viceroy and staff left Baroda on the afternoon of Monday, the 30th November, and arrived at Surat at 5 P.M. on the same day. Here His Excellency was met by Lord Sandhurst and his staff, the Hon. Mr. Trevor, Mr. Lely, Commissioner of the Northern Division, the Chief of Bansda, the principal District Officers and a large number of ladies and gentlemen, who had come to Surat to witness the ceremonies in connection with the cutting of the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway by the Viceroy. After being introduced to the principal personages present, His Excellency received an address of welcome from the members of the Surat Municipality, in which they dwelt on the historical aspect of the trade of Surat and on the recent reforms and works performed by their body.

His Excellency replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Commission of Surat,—I desire to tender to you my very best thanks for the very kind welcome which you have given to Lady Elgin and myself, and for the sentiment of loyalty and attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty which are to be found in the address which has just been read. I have taken upon myself to assure Her Majesty that in no part of Her dominions is the interest in the event of Her reign to be celebrated next year felt more keenly than in India, and I am glad to find that I have merely anticipated your wishes.

Gentlemen, in a hasty visit, such as alone I am able to pay to Surat on this occasion, it is impossible for me to inform myself, as I should desire to inform myself, with regard to the places of interest in your city to which you have alluded, and I am sure you will agree with me that I should only be wasting precious time if I descanted on them just now. You have mentioned that I am the first Viceroy who has visited Surat. If I have been able to come here to-day, the reason is the great improvement that has been made in the means of communication, and I am here

Address of welcome from the Surat Municipality.

to-day to join with you in inaugurating a further development of those means of communication which I hope is fraught with blessings to you and to yours. (*Applause*).

Gentlemen, if I read aright the history of Surat, you have had in the past ups and downs. You have before now experienced that decline of prosperity of which you have spoken to-day, and you have shown that you can face adversity and compel a return of prosperity. I hope that history will repeat itself. This, at any rate, I am glad to see, that you are showing that public spirit which induces you to meet the urgent wants of the community which you represent not only in those two great matters which one might call common to all cities,—namely, drainage and water,—but more especially in the emergencies arising from the ravages of fire and flood. I hope that the enterprise which we are to see commenced to-day will, by extending the influence of your city, bring you an increase of prosperity by giving you an increase to your trade. I am aware that there has been some feeling that certain arrangements might be calculated to fail in securing for Surat as an emporium of trade all the advantages which it might justly claim. We have looked very carefully into that question, and we are satisfied that any idea of supplanting Surat is as foreign to the arrangements proposed as it is to the intention of the promoters. *Gentlemen*, I therefore venture to trust that the hopeful anticipations which you yourselves have expressed in your address will, as a fact, be realised, and that I shall be acquainted with the fact, and that that knowledge will mingle with the pleasing memories which I shall carry away of your kindly greeting to-day. (*Applause*.)

CUTTING THE FIRST SOD OF THE TAPTI VALLEY RAILWAY.

30th Nov. 1896. [After replying to the address of welcome from the Surat Municipality, the Viceroy proceeded to an adjoining shamiana, within which the ceremony of cutting the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway was performed. His Excellency was accompanied on the dais by Lady Elisabeth Bruce, His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, the Hon. Mr. Trevor, the Chief of Bandsa, and others, a large assembly being seated in the shamiana. Mr. Forrest, the Chairman of the new Railway Company, addressed His Excellency on the subject of the proposed line and the advantages to be derived from its construction, and concluded as follows :—

“As the spade and barrow are practically unknown in this part of the country, I have now the honour to ask Your Excellency to take this native *powrah*, and, with the gracious assistance of the Lady Elisabeth Bruce, to set an example to the coolies who will make the line by lifting and carrying away in this basket in the manner of the country the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway.”

The Viceroy then rose and spoke as follows :—]

Mr. Forrest, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—
It is more than twenty years since I first assisted at a ceremony of this kind, and I well remember that on that occasion I was taken to task for my performance as a navvy by the experts, and therefore I desire to bespeak your kind indulgence on this occasion if there is anything lacking in the performance of my daughter or myself as coolies. (*Laughter*). I have at any rate a better excuse now than I had then, for I could not plead entire ignorance of the spade and barrow, but I am afraid that our education has been neglected in the art of using the *powrah* and the basket.

Mr. Forrest, I was exceedingly anxious from the first to accept your kind invitation to be present on this occasion for several reasons. I was anxious to associate myself with an enterprise which I hoped would restore to an ancient city a prosperity in accord with its historic past, and to a fertile district its connection with its legitimate markets. (*Applause*.) I was also anxious, as you

Cutting the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway.

have supposed, to testify my appreciation of the public spirit of my friend His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, from whom I parted a few hours ago, who has devoted much attention and much money to the promotion of railways, and has been a good friend to this particular undertaking; and, in the third place, there was something in connection with the conditions under which the Tapti Valley Railway Company is formed which appeared to me to be novel and to offer possibilities for the future.

You have been good enough, Sir, to say that you are aware of the interest which I take in railway construction. I am not going to disclaim an interest which I honestly feel, and indeed at this season, when it is already recognised how great a part railways are called upon to play in the prevention of distress, and in the preservation of life, I doubt whether there are many who would wish to disclaim a special interest. But I should like it to be understood what the limits are within which I advocate extension. I dare say it is true that there is practically no limit to the profitable employment of money in the construction of railways in India. At any rate, if there is, in so vast a country the sum of money would be an enormous one, but it does not by any means follow that there should not be limits to the rate of construction. Now, it has been my opinion, and it has been an opinion which I have shared with the present Secretary of State and his predecessors, that the rate of construction might be usefully and prudently increased, and we have taken steps in that direction both by allotting a larger measure of public funds, and also by giving encouragement, as I think I may say this Railway Company itself testifies, to those who are willing to co-operate in the construction of railways; but so long as it is the fact that in the whole Empire of India, with the exception of the Native States, there is scarcely a railway which is not dependent, directly or indirectly, on Government assistance, or on Govern-

Cutting the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway.

ment credit, no Government could afford to relax that examination and control of the ever-increasing expenditure which from this source year by year comes upon it. That examination necessitates a knowledge of the various needs of the country and a weighing of the merits of competing claims. We have been engaged this summer in considering whether we could not introduce some improvements into our system with the object of securing greater regularity and despatch of business, and I am sure that if we succeed, as I hope we shall succeed, we shall receive a vote of thanks from gentlemen who are interested in the promotion of railway companies. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, the time may come when it will be possible to undertake the construction of a railway company in India independently of Government, just as you would undertake the erection of a cotton mill. That is the course which is pursued in England, but I suppose that we are scarcely ready for it here in India yet. All that I would point out is that the more private enterprise can stand on its own feet, the wider will be the field for it. The credit of the Government of India is so high that we are perfectly able to provide for ourselves all the funds that are necessary for our own purposes, and of course in the interests of the public it is our duty to see that we raise these funds in the cheapest possible manner. But I hope that this Company marks a step in the right direction. If I understand Mr. Forrest he alleges aright,—and I think he is not a man to speak rashly—that it has tapped a new market; and when I hear of a subscription list of three thousand names, and that the city of Surat has subscribed twenty-two lakhs, I think there are some grounds for his assertion. I can only say that I gladly welcome it. I think it is to the interest of Government, as it is to the interests of themselves, that natives of India should take part in railway undertakings. It is to the interest of Government, because we value anything that increases the

Cutting the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway.

amount of the funds available for works of public utility and subscribed by men who know what they are about, because they know the localities; and it is to the advantage of the individuals because of the very excellent terms which, in my opinion, the Government are now offering. Investors, I think, divide themselves into two classes: there are those who look first, or perhaps only, to safety, and there are those who like a little more profit even if they run a little risk. Now, to characterise the terms at present offered by Government for branch lines, it seems to me that they enable gentlemen to study safety and a little mild speculation at one and the same time. The man who looks to safety knows that he will receive a return guaranteed to him by Government equivalent to that received from Government paper, and the man who likes a little profit turns his attention to the share offered of the surplus profits, and I think may reasonably expect to increase his modest 3 per cent. to 4 or 5 per cent., and perhaps, if he is lucky, to more. (*Applause.*) Now, I understand from Mr. Forrest that he is of opinion that these terms have only to be known in other parts of the country to be as much appreciated by native capitalists there as they are in Bombay. And when I speak of the native capitalist, I do not only mean the man possessed of lakhs, but the man of moderate means who is desirous of finding a safe security in which to invest his money. I can only say that I shall be exceedingly glad if Mr. Forrest is able to contribute to such a result. I cannot, of course, promise that every scheme that is put forward will be accepted, but I can promise that every case will receive the most careful and sympathetic consideration. In answer, therefore, to the challenge with which Mr. Forrest began his speech, I have to say that the formation of railway companies on the basis of an Indian currency promoted by men who know and are known in India, subscribed to by men of local influence, and offering opportunities to the natives of India

Banquet at Indore.

to share in the profits arising therefrom—these are objects which have my heartiest sympathy. I am here to-day because I wish the Tapti Valley Railway Company, as a pioneer in this movement, every success. (*Applause.*)

[The ceremony of cutting the first sod was then performed by Lady Elisabeth Bruce, after which the Viceregal party left for Indore.]

BANQUET AT INDORE.

2nd Dec. 1896. [The Viceregal party arrived at Indore on the 1st December, and, on the following evening, were entertained at a banquet at the Lal Bagh Palace by His Highness Maharaja Holkar. About 150 guests were invited to meet them. The route through the city, a distance of four miles, was brilliantly illuminated, as also the palace grounds and buildings. At the conclusion of dinner the Maharaja entered and took his seat near the Viceroy. His Highness proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, and then proposed that of their Excellencies in the following terms :—

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with feelings of sincere pleasure and gratitude that I welcome your Excellency to the Capital of my State. I esteem your Excellency's visit a very great honor as affording me an opportunity of receiving and welcoming, in the person of her august representative, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. (*Applause.*)

It gives me the sincerest pleasure to welcome to Indore Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin, in whom I see the representative of those womanly virtues of Her Majesty which have enshrined her in the hearts of the teeming millions of India. (*Applause.*) The even-handed justice of her Government and the era of peace and prosperity which it has inaugurated have created ties of loyalty too strong to be easily shaken. It has always been, and shall ever be, my highest ambition to remain firm in my loyalty to the British Crown. (*Applause.*)

My best thanks are also due to your Excellency personally for the kind help I have uniformly received at your Excellency's hands. (*Applause.*)

I am very deeply indebted to your Excellencies for your graciously accepting my hospitality this evening. Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to drink to the long life, happiness and prosperity of their Excellencies the Viceroy and Countess of Elgin.

Banquet at Indore.

The toast was very warmly received.

His Excellency, who on rising was received with applause, said :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to thank His Highness for the kind words which he has spoken, and on behalf of Lady Elgin as well as myself, for the graceful manner in which he has proposed our health. (*Applause.*) I think I am entitled to claim His Highness as one of the oldest friends I have in India, for I remember well that I made his acquaintance a few hours after landing in this country when he was good enough to call upon me in Bombay. I remember also, with some compunction, that he then gave me an invitation to Indore, and that nearly three years have passed since then ; but if I have been unable to come before, at any rate I have come now, and I am glad to find that the Maharaja bears me no ill-will—(*The Maharaja*: No, no ; on the contrary)—for my delay, and is as hospitable as ever. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I remember that I also made another promise to His Highness on that occasion, and I am glad to hear him say to-night that he recognises that I have not forgotten it, and that was that if there was any matter concerning His Highness which was brought to my notice, I would always give it the most careful consideration in my power. I am glad to say that intervention on my part does not come very often. It is not remarkable, for His Highness has at his side an old and trusted friend in Colonel Barr, and it is not very likely, therefore, that he should have to go further afield (*applause*) ; but still if he ever wishes to appeal to a friend—and there are few of us who do not occasionally feel a wish to do so—I hope he understands—and I know from what he has said to-night that he does understand—that he has only to let me know of any matter which he wishes to bring to my notice for it to receive, as I have said, careful consideration, and that the best advice I have will be at his service. (*Applause.*)

Banquet at Indore.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—All of us who are interested in Indore must wish for the happiness of its Maharaja and for the happiness and well-being of its people (*applause*); and believing, as I do, that the two are inseparably united, it will not be easy to turn me aside if there is any way in which I can contribute to either. (*Applause.*) *Your Highness*, it has added to the interest of my visit to Indore that I have had an opportunity of meeting so many of the Chiefs of Central India, and the Thakurs of this State. They have received me, as I have always found the Chiefs and Rulers of India receive me, with the greatest courtesy and kindness, and I desire to take advantage of this occasion to express to them collectively my thanks for doing so, and my good wishes for the prosperity of this important district which I am glad to see has the appearance of prosperity in this season. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—His Highness the Maharaja has spoken in words which will appeal to you of the loyalty which he feels to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. (*Applause.*) His Highness put it to me this afternoon in a somewhat more pithy manner. He said—"We have little to show you here except loyal hearts." (*Applause.*) I am sure that those who know His Highness will feel that he speaks from conviction, and, so far as I am concerned, nothing could be more opportune than the words which he has used, and the sentiments which he has expressed. I have been passing several weeks among Native States, but after to-morrow I shall return to British India, and it may be that for several months I shall not have an opportunity of being again within the limits of a Native State. It is exceedingly gratifying to me that I should carry away from Indore the full echo of that spirit of loyalty which I have found everywhere on my travels, and which in the incoming year will be uppermost in the minds of all Her Majesty's subjects. (*Applause.*) The event which we hope to

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celebrate next year is one which specially appeals to that sentiment of loyalty for the person of Her Majesty which forms a bond of union to Her subjects in every part of the world. (*Applause.*) It is my privilege to thank His Highness, as Her Majesty's representative, for the loyal words which he has spoken to-night, and with those words ringing in my ears I shall have less hesitation even than I had before in maintaining, when the time comes, on behalf of the people of India, that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions will there be a fuller concurrence in the uppermost wish of our hearts next year, namely, that while we recognise the length and the unprecedented character of Her Majesty's reign, our one desire is that it should be continued and prolonged. (*Applause.*)

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have only to ask you to join with me in drinking to the health of our host, and in wishing for His Highness the Maharaja every happiness and prosperity in the future. (*Applause.*)

[The Maharaja replied as follows:—

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I beg to thank your Excellency most sincerely for the kind words just uttered and for the very kind way in which your Excellency proposed my health. The support which I have hitherto received from all Viceregal representatives at the Residency, and which I trust I shall continue to receive from your Excellency's present representative, my esteemed friend Colonel Barr, enables me to hope that, under God, the peace and prosperity of my subjects will continue to increase. (*Applause.*)]

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT BOARD, JUBBULPORE.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin and party arrived at Jubbulpore at 5-30 P.M. on Saturday, the 5th December, and were received at the Railway Station by Mr. C. J. Lyall, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and all the principal Civil and Military officials. The members of the Municipal Committee and District Board were also present, and presented an address of welcome to His Excellency. Mr. Stanyon, President of the Municipality, read the address, which, after the usual expressions of welcome, remarked that no Viceroy had visited Jubbulpore since Lord Canning came. The address deplored the condition of the agricultural classes owing to the crops failing for three consecutive years, coinciding with the present settlement coming into force. It described the present state of the district in the following terms :—

“Meanwhile the expenses of cultivation have been greatly increased by many causes, among which may be mentioned the growing poverty of the soil, the diminution of free pasture lands caused by the enormous increase in area of the Government Forest Reserves, and the enhanced cost of litigation. Landlords who, during the past three years, have freely helped their tenantry by suspending rents and lending money and seed-grain, have been severely handicapped by the largely enhanced Government demand and they have been called on to meet, and now find themselves helpless to contend with the continued distress. The condition of the cultivators has therefore become exceedingly critical, and numbers of them have abandoned their holdings. The effects of the prevailing scarcity have, however, been most felt by the agricultural labouring classes, thousands of whom, deprived of their ordinary livelihood, have been driven to emigration or beggary. Many have fallen victims to cholera. Many more have died of privation and sickness resulting from an insufficiency of proper food. Many again have attained their deliberate aim in the commission of crime, and are to-day thankfully eating prison fare and wearing prison clothes. Great hopes were entertained that the last rice and other kharif crops would help to alleviate the general distress, and up to the beginning of September, when the rain ceased, prospects were exceptionally good. Unfortunately the monsoon terminated prematurely, and the crop was almost wholly destroyed by drought. The lack of rain further interfered seriously with the sowings of the winter crop. The anxiety of

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cultivators to obtain the best results from their limited stores of seed-grain caused the sowings of wheat and grain in the highlands to be delayed in the expectation of rain till the soil became too hard for the plough. This and in some cases the actual want of seed-grain resulted in considerable areas being left fallow."

The address acknowledged gratefully the steps taken by the local administration to alleviate the distress. Government revenue to the amount of five lakhs had been suspended for two years, *takavi* advances of over a lakh had been made, and ferry tolls had been remitted. Also nine-tenths of the Government Forest Reserve had been thrown open for free collection of food and fuel. Referring to municipal matters, the address mentioned the recent construction of water and drainage systems, and the public works started for the relief of labourers out of work. Poor houses had also been established. The assistance received from the Provincial funds and the local officers was also acknowledged with gratitude.

His Excellency in replying spoke as follows:—]

Gentlemen of the District Board and Municipal Committee of Jubbulpore,—I have to thank you for the welcome you have given me. If it is the case that a Viceregal visit is deferred for over one-third of a century, I am sure you will appreciate the fact that that is only due to the pressing calls of business which, even more imperatively than the policemen in the street, compels us to "move on." I esteem myself fortunate that I have been able to snatch a few brief days to see something of you and your interesting neighbourhood. But you will know, I am sure, that I do not come here only on pleasure bent; I come also to have the opportunity of conferring with my old friend, the Chief Commissioner, in regard to the state of matters in the districts under his charge. You have, very properly, in your address—in the parts specially which, for convenience sake, you have not read—called my attention to matters concerning your own town and district. Perhaps you will allow me, in a perfectly friendly spirit, to say that I observe one or two statements of a somewhat general character, which I venture to think would perhaps have been better omitted from a document

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which ought to be the careful and well considered statement of a responsible body. For instance, I am not quite sure if I appreciate your words in speaking of the enormous increase in the Government Forest Reserves. I think I am right in saying that the Government Forest Reserves in the Central Provinces were finally settled many years ago, and that any dealings with them of late have been rather in the direction of disforestation any land suitable for cultivation. So far also as the general policy of the Government is concerned, you, no doubt, are acquainted with the Resolution of the Government of India of 1894—the Forest Resolution which has met with unanimous approval, and which I think you must have had in your mind when you mention, later on, that no less than 181,000 acres out of 221,000 have been thrown open for the free provision of fuel and edible produce.

I do not think this is a place to go into details on these subjects, and I only refer to them because otherwise there might be an impression from the earlier part of your address that you thought the general condition of the people had been neglected. I do not think that is your intention, and it is certainly inconsistent with the subsequent parts of your address. In those portions you have spoken in the most clear and unambiguous manner. You speak of the share in the work of relief which the District Council have taken; you claim for yourselves that you have fully and fairly performed the duties laid upon you by law, and with the approval of the proper authority; you speak of the efforts of the Local Government and acknowledge them; you speak of successive Chief Commissioners and other officers, and appreciate the sympathy and help which you have received from them; you tell me of relief works which have been undertaken; of suspensions of revenue which have been sanctioned, and of tuccavi advances which have been made. All I can say is that what has been thus begun will, I

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know, be continued in the same spirit. The Chief Commissioner, who has a reputation second to none in the Government of India for care and accuracy, in the reports he has submitted, has not failed to call our attention to the probability of distress in a part of his Province; but he has also expressed his readiness to meet the emergency. We know from what you have said that he will have any assistance and support you can give, and he knows very well that any appeal he may make to the Government of India will meet with a sympathetic and ready response.

Gentlemen,—You have said a word about the possibility of preventing these calamities. I am afraid that any attempt to meet permanently a calamity of this kind would be very difficult. Even in the matter of irrigation, to which you say the rains of the last two years have called your attention, we must proceed with great caution, nowhere perhaps more so than in the Central Provinces. It is true that, during the last two seasons, you have suffered from a deficiency of rainfall, but in the preceding two seasons you suffered from an excessive rainfall, as I well remember, because the distress in Saugor and Damoh was the first case of the kind which came under my notice after I assumed office. Moreover, in a great part of these provinces you have the black cotton soil, which retains moisture in a manner which other qualities of soil in other districts fail to do, and I can only say that, travelling during the last few days in Indore, Gwalior, and now in these Provinces up to the gates of your city, I have been struck by the prosperous appearance of the country even with the small amount of rain that has come lately. Still I do not mean to say that irrigation projects should be neglected, and I know that the Chief Commissioner is giving his attention to that subject.

Gentlemen,—I do not think I ought to conclude without saying a word of recognition of the public spirit in municipal affairs for which Jubbulpore is well known.

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I had long heard of your water-works and hope to have an opportunity of seeing them. I now hear with great pleasure of the manner in which you have come forward and started works in the city for the relief of destitute persons who have come there. You say that the steps you have taken have met with the full approval of the Chief Commissioner, and I am sure you will need no further encouragement to persevere in a good work of this kind which is for the well-being of the community which you represent.

Gentlemen,—I am desired by Lady Elgin to thank you for your recognition of the value of the great work in which she takes so deep an interest. We shall, I know, carry away with us the pleasing recollections which you have promised us from Jubbulpore, and we most heartily join with you in your expression of attachment to our beloved Sovereign, every year of whose reign only confirms her in the affections of her people.

OPENING A ZENANA HOSPITAL AT JUBBULPORE.

7th Decr. 1896.

On Monday morning, the 7th December 1896, Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin performed the ceremony of opening a new Zenana Hospital at Jubbulpore, which will henceforth be known as "The Lady Elgin Hospital." The two buildings of which the hospital will consist were presented to Her Excellency as Lady President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund by the ladies of Raja Seth Gokul Das's family, and are intended to supply the want of a separate female hospital in Jubbulpore. Lady Elgin was accompanied by the Viceroy, Lady Elisabeth Bruce, Lord Bruce, the Hon'ble Robert Bruce, Mr. Lyall, Chief Commissioner, Mr. Anderson, Commissioner, Mr. Duff, Deputy Commissioner, and His Excellency's staff. On their arrival at the hospital Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel McKay read an address giving a brief history of the buildings, and expressing the gratitude and pleasure of the donors and their family for the honour conferred upon them by the presence of their Excellencies, and their acknowledgments of Lady Elgin's condescension in consenting to open the hospital, which would hereafter bear Her Excellency's name. The address was presented to Lady Elgin in a handsome silver casket, and she proceeded

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to the adjoining building, one of the doors of which she formally opened with a silver key bearing an appropriate inscription, which was afterwards presented to her by the little sons of the donors as a souvenir of the occasion. Lady Elgin was then taken through the wards by Dr. McKay, and on returning to the dais, Mr. Anderson, the Commissioner, and President of the Jubbulpore Dufferin Fund Committee, read an address to Her Excellency on behalf of the Committee, in whose charge the buildings will henceforth remain. The address gave an account of the financial position, and work carried on by the local Committee, and acknowledged the generosity of the ladies of Raja Gokul Das's family in presenting the buildings, at the same time expressing the thanks of the Committee to their Excellencies for their presence at the ceremony, which would inaugurate a new era in the history of the Jubbulpore branch of the Countess of Dufferin Fund.

The Viceroy then addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am desired by Her Excellency to tell you of the pleasure which she has felt in being present here this morning and in taking the part which has been allotted to her in these proceedings. As Lady President of the Dufferin Association she has accepted the generous gift of this hospital, and she leaves it with confidence in the hands of the Committee, who will, in future, manage it. For herself she will always retain a pleasing recollection that there exists in the city of Jubbulpore a hospital which bears her name, and is devoted to the great work which has occupied so much of her time and thoughts since she came to India.

I think it will be admitted by all that some special interest attaches to the history of these buildings which has been recorded here to-day. It is not often that in the life-time of an individual the same building can be devoted to public purposes and to separate purposes by the munificence of himself and his family. The manner in which this has been brought about is consistent with the liberality and public spirit which have characterised Raja Gokul Das's dealings with his fellow-citizens. I am glad to congratulate him, and the ladies of his household, on the manner in which

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the buildings have now been adapted to the purposes for which they are intended, and I share in the hope they have expressed that the sympathy and charity of others will be stimulated by the example set to them, and thus that the success of this institution will be assured. The provision of this hospital, as the Dufferin Committee have said, gives them a new opportunity. The interest on £24,000 is not a very large sum, and they have not hitherto been able to work wonders; but from to-day they may make a fresh start. The possession of this hospital will enable them to afford medical aid to the women of Jubbulpore. What their success will be will depend to some extent on their own exertions, but still more largely on the sympathy which the donors have bespoken for them. I doubt not that the donors in so speaking looked principally to provision being made for the maintenance of the institution and for the expenses of the treatment of the patients who come to it; but I should like to extend the demand for sympathy. If this hospital is to be a success, that success will be due to a many-sided sympathy; to the sympathy of the donors who have erected it; to the sympathy of the Committee who will manage it; to the sympathy of the charitable who will support it; and still more, and above all, to the sympathy of the people who will use it. It should never be forgotten that the primary and all-important object of the Dufferin Association is to afford medical aid to the women of India in the manner best calculated to enable them to take advantage of it, freely and without embarrassment. It is, therefore, to the sympathy of the women of Jubbulpore that we may appeal. This building has been erected, and the institution will be carried on, for their benefit and their benefit only. It is for them to show by the bestowal of their full confidence that they appreciate the gift that has been bestowed upon them, and their gratitude for it. In Lady Elgin's name, therefore, I invite the confidence of the women of Jubbul-

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pore, because she feels that in that way only will the great blessings which this hospital is calculated to bring with it be fully reaped by the community of Jubbulpore.

[After the conclusion of the ceremony at the hospital, the Viceroy visited the large poor-house which was situated close at hand. It was divided into three sections, one of them being used as a hospital for the worst cases of distress, and contained some 1,600 paupers. Many of them were extremely emaciated, and the sight was a very distressing one. The poor-house was clean and appeared to be well managed.]

ADDRESS FROM THE BENARES MUNICIPALITY.

[The Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin and party, 8th Dec. 1896, arrived at Benares on Tuesday afternoon, the 8th December. On his way from Jubbulpore His Excellency halted at Jasra (where he was met by Sir Antony MacDonnell) to inspect the relief works, on which some 14,000 people were employed. At Benares their Excellencies were received by his Highness the Maharaja of Benares, Mr. Roberts, Commissioner, Mr. Cobbe, Collector, three of the Delhi Princes, and a large gathering of the general community, civil and military. A guard-of-honour of the 10th Bengal Infantry was drawn up on the platform, which His Excellency inspected; and the Members of the Benares Municipal Board presented an address of welcome, from which the following are extracts: "We cling to our honoured traditions and all that is good in them, but at the same time we have not hesitated to take advantage of the benefits conferred on humanity by the researches of modern science, more particularly of that branch of it which in late years has been engaging the attention of the whole civilized world. When six years ago we had the honour of receiving your Excellency's distinguished predecessor, Lord Lansdowne, we were congratulating ourselves on having inaugurated a great sanitary scheme. We can now tell your Excellency that, like other great cities in the Empire, we own large water-works supplying the whole town with wholesome water and daily becoming more and more valuable in public estimation; also that we have in course of active construction a system of sewers which, in an area crowded with a dense resident population of ourselves, and a still vaster floating population of pilgrims, appeared to us an even greater desideratum. We have one request to make at your Excellency's hands. These two large projects are straining our financial

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resources to the utmost. Without the loans which your Excellency's Government have been graciously pleased to advance to us we could never have undertaken either. Our prayer is that, in view of the lately changed and more favourable terms prevailing in the money market, your Excellency may be able to extend assistance to us and may be able to further reduce the interest on the sums which we have borrowed. It is a matter of deep regret that the brightness of your Excellency's visit should be dimmed by a season of scarcity and distress. We, in common with our fellow-subjects in other parts of India, are having a hard struggle to tide it over, but we can assure your Excellency that to see you amongst us is a grateful reminder that with them we have a Government's anxious care and ready help in time of need."

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Board of Benares,—I venture to assure you that I approach your venerable city with the utmost respect, and I recognise the justice of your designation of it as the seat of Hindu religion and the home of ancient lore. I have of course seen it from a distance on several occasions as I have passed to and fro, but I have considered it almost a duty to make a closer acquaintance with it, even if it is only a short day that I can spare. I appreciate as much as any one here present the value of ancient traditions. I believe that few if any traditions which have the sanction of long and well established custom have no good in them. The good may indeed be overshadowed and lost sight of, as a crop is choked by rank-growing weeds, but it is the business of a wise man not to deny its existence, but to clear away the encumbrances which surround it as the cultivator tends his field, and at the same time to incorporate with it the corresponding good which modern usage, modern civilization, and modern science afford. I should like, therefore, if I may, to encourage you to persevere in finding the good in both what is old and what is new. I imagine that in few places is it more desirable than in Benares, where, as you have mentioned, the number of the pilgrims who are attracted by your ancient renown has made it incumbent

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upon you to use the means which modern science has shown to be necessary for the protection of yourselves and of them. I can well understand that the financial burden may, at first, at all events, be somewhat heavy, and if I am right—I am speaking without reference to documents—I fancy that, in your case, that has been to some extent acknowledged, and that certain concessions have been made to you. I would only say that there is a danger I think for municipalities in pressing too strongly the view that it is desirable to revise the interest on loans, because if the claim for reduction of interest is established when Government credit is high, there might be a corresponding claim for an increase of interest when Government credit is low, and I know enough of local finance to know that that would be fatal to its administration, and that a firm bargain to which both parties are bound is the surest and safest means for them.

Gentlemen,—I am exceedingly grateful to you for recognising my presence here to-day as a token of sympathy with you in your hour of need. Several months ago, when I was preparing for my journey, I came to the conclusion that, about this time, and not before this time, it was probable that distress in large proportions might affect this and neighbouring provinces, and that a visit from me might receive the interpretation which you have kindly put upon it in your address. I did not say anything about it at the time, because until plans could be definitely formed that might only have occasioned inconvenience to many people; but I have never lost sight of my purpose, and I have done what I could to carry it out. I yesterday inspected one of the largest poor-houses in the Central Provinces at Jubbulpore, and the cause of my delay in arriving here to-day has been that, in the early hours of this morning, I have been, in company with your Lieutenant Governor, visiting a large relief work near Allahabad. These visits are not visits of idle curiosity. I venture to

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think that they will be of some service in making me acquainted with the methods which are adopted by the able men in charge of the local administrations and the energetic officers under them in grappling with the difficulties by which they are surrounded. I hope that I shall be all the better able to appreciate the work which is being done, and I already feel greater confidence, if that were possible, that they intend to succeed and that they will succeed. But beyond this your kind words encourage me in the hope that the people at large will accept my visits as an indication—the only indication of the kind which it is open to me to give—that my whole heart is with them in their trouble, and that I recognise to the full the responsibility of myself and of the Government of India, and will do what I can fully and effectually to act up to it.

Gentlemen,—I have only to thank you very much for the welcome you have given me. (*Applause.*)

FAMINE PROSPECTS—PRIVATE CHARITY.

7th Jan. 1897.

[At the meeting of the Governor General's Legislative Council which was held on Thursday, the 7th January 1897, the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn made a statement regarding the prospects of the crops in India and the measures that had been taken for famine relief in the affected areas.

On the question of the attitude of the Government with respect to private charity, His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

I desire to supplement the statement of the Hon'ble Member on one point only. When I spoke on this subject in this Council at Simla, I ventured to say that the private charity for which the people of India have ever been distinguished would no doubt be forthcoming to reach distress which Government methods could not deal with so satisfactorily. My expectations have been fulfilled; I have heard of Relief Committees in all parts of the affected

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Provinces, and I know that the Local Governments and their officials have readily co-operated and assisted them in their work.

A good deal has been said recently of the organisation of private charity on a larger scale, and of appeals for assistance from a wider field. I do not know if Hon'ble Members are fully aware of the position of Government in this matter. After the Madras Famine of 1877, a correspondence took place between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on this subject, and the Secretary of State, (Lord Salisbury) gave his decision in May 1878 in the following words:—

“You are of opinion that, in cases of future famine, no appeal should be made by a Local Government to the charity of an English public, excepting with the approval of the Governor General in Council; that the Governor General in Council should, in the first instance, define the objects to which (as distinct from the obligation devolving on the Government) such charity will be devoted; and that, to inspire confidence in the public, as well as to secure the efficient administration of the funds, local Committees should conduct their operations under the control of Government, and with the co-operation of its officers.

I entirely concur in the soundness of these principles.”

This declaration of principles still stands, and so soon as my attention was directed to them, I put myself into communication with the Heads of Local Governments, and as I was on tour I had the advantage of conferring personally with many of them. I was thus enabled to bring the matter before my Colleagues immediately the Government re-assembled in Calcutta, and, at our first Council, we, in obedience to the Orders of 1878, drew up the definition of the objects to which private charity might be usefully devoted. These papers accordingly are now in the hands of Local Governments; they have also been forwarded to the Secretary of State. The Despatch will reach him on Monday; but with Lord G. Hamilton's permission, we shall publish it and its enclosures in the

*Famine Prospects—Private Charity. **

Gazette on Saturday. I venture to think that Hon'ble Members will agree that, in these proceedings, we have wasted no time, and that we may hope to have attained the object which no doubt underlies the Orders, *i. e.*, that, as a consequence of what we have done, this movement can be prosecuted here, in England, or elsewhere, for a common purpose which all can understand, as a common cause in which all can co-operate.

I have said enough, I think, to prove that the duty we have had to perform was one that called for care and caution and some knowledge of the circumstances. And yet there has been some criticism of the advice which before Christmas we offered to the Secretary of State to abstain from any encouragement of subscriptions at that particular moment. I am not going to argue the point now for two reasons—(1) that Hon'ble Members will on Saturday have before them a full statement, and not merely a telegraphic summary of our case; and (2) that if I desire to add anything, I shall have another opportunity in the near future. But I will merely say that the event has justified our action. The statement which has just been made by the Hon'ble Member is exactly that for which we were waiting. He has been able to make it somewhat earlier than we had expected, because the rain has come earlier. But his statement enables us to give to our proposals the clearness and definition which we desired to give them. We know now that over a large part of the country where a *rabi* crop is of primary importance, we can look forward with a fair amount of confidence. That means (as the Hon'ble Member has said) that we have reason to believe that we have escaped what has been described as likely to be the greatest calamity of the century. But, on the other hand, the statement of the Hon'ble Member has also shown that there must be over wide districts, in several provinces, a distress affecting thousands, perhaps millions of persons, for a period that must be measured by

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months, and a statement of that kind justifies us in saying that private charity can usefully intervene in the manner and for the purposes which we have ourselves defined.

I have accordingly to inform the Council that, having received an invitation from the citizens of Calcutta, headed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to attend a public meeting on the question, I propose with the utmost readiness to do so. I have reason to believe that this meeting in India will be closely followed by a meeting in London, and I can only say that as we have paved the way, so we shall do all in our power to make these meetings, and the movements they initiate, in every way a success.

There is, however, one word of caution which I must not omit. I desire to say most emphatically that, as a Government, and for the purposes of Government, the Government of India has had, and will have, nothing whatever to do with an appeal to private subscriptions. As a Government we have undertaken certain obligations: those obligations we are perfectly able to perform, and we shall accept no help. There are objects to which the money of the charitable may be devoted. We have endeavoured to set them forth; but, in the words of Lord Salisbury, they must be "distinct from the obligation devolving upon Government." Our means are ample; our determination to use them is absolute. I speak in this matter for the whole of my Colleagues, and for none of them more than for my Hon'ble friend in charge of the Finance Department. I can say from personal knowledge that Local Governments gratefully recognise that, in this connection, they are being met with the utmost consideration and liberality, and I feel the most complete confidence that, whatever the criticism of our action in this emergency may be, in one respect, at all events, we shall not fail to secure the verdict of the historian, *i. e.*, in our making available for the saving of life the full resources of the Empire.

FAMINE RELIEF.

14th Jan. 1897. [A public meeting, convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta on a requisition from the leading citizens, was held at the Dalhousie Institute at 4 P.M., on Thursday, the 14th January, for the purpose of establishing a fund for the alleviation of distress in those Provinces of India which were suffering from famine. His Excellency the Viceroy presided. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Commander-in-Chief, the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Members of the Viceroy's Council, many of the leading citizens of Calcutta, and a large assembly of the general community were present. On His Excellency taking his seat on the dais, Rai Bahadur Shew Bux Bagla, Sheriff of Calcutta, declared the meeting open. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore then moved that His Excellency the Viceroy be requested to accept the office of Chairman of the meeting. Mr. C. H. Moore seconded the proposition. His Excellency the Viceroy, who on rising was received with cheers, then addressed the meeting as follows:—]

Your Honour, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are met this afternoon under circumstances which I believe to be unprecedented. It is not that meetings have not been held before in Calcutta and elsewhere arising out of the distress of the people, and for the purpose of calling to their aid the generosity of the charitable. If for twenty years the necessity has not arisen, I venture to say that none of those who have been responsible for the Government, none of those who, officially or unofficially, have studied the condition of the people of India, can have failed to recognise that in any single year the spectre of famine might present itself at our doors. The interest with which we watch the labours of the able gentleman at the head of our Meteorological Department testifies to an ever-present anxiety. Nor is this occasion unprecedented because of the criticism which the Government has encountered, or even of the nature of that criticism. Governments are made to be criticised, and, for my part, I have always thought that fair and honourable criticism affords valuable assistance which no Government can despise. But where I think this occasion has no parallel is

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the wide field over which our operations must extend. The meetings in Madras in 1877, and in Calcutta in 1874, had to deal with distress which could not well have been more acute in the important areas affected; but never before has the appeal for help come from so many directions. I hold in my hand telegrams from all the Heads of Local Governments expressing their cordial approval of this movement, and promising their ready co-operation. This movement may, therefore, well be termed a national one, and I appeal to all that, with that fact before us, minor controversies should cease. Whatever differences of opinion may have existed, henceforth let us have no gaps in our ranks, but face the future as one man.

I am emboldened to say this to you because I know I am repeating the desire of one whose merest wish will have more weight than any words of mine. I am permitted to announce that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has been graciously pleased to become Patron of this Fund. It is her wish that its operations should be conducted on broad and imperial lines, and that fact unites us with our fellow-subjects in all parts of the world in one undivided and indissoluble phalanx.

It may be, nay it must be, to all of us matter of regret that the sufferings of her Indian subjects must mingle with the memories of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's glorious reign; but if that is now inevitable, at all events there can be nothing more entirely consonant with the spirit of her reign than the charity and good-will, imperial, all-embracing, which is the lesson our Sovereign has taught us.

I am reluctant to detain you at any length, but I think it incumbent on me to say a few words about the objects of the Fund it is proposed to institute, and the means by which they may be attained.

I can quite understand that it is not easy for those unacquainted with the system under which Government

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works to appreciate the distinction drawn between the obligations lying upon Government, and the objects to which, with the concurrence and co-operation of Government, charitable funds may be devoted. The Government system, and the principles on which it rests, are no new things, discovered by us for this emergency; we inherit in them the labours of generations of Statesmen and the experience of men who have grappled with the foe and have overcome him. They originate, I think, in the fact that it is impossible to predict of any single year that famine will not come, and in the magnitude of the disaster when it does come. That means that an adequate organisation must be ready beforehand to cope with it; and obviously no organisation can be continuously ready to cope with an Indian famine except one for which Government makes itself responsible. The numbers alone make anything else impracticable. We read of $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions of people being on relief works, and we know that even that number may be doubled or trebled. That means a failure of crops and a distress which is most grievous, but it also means that these millions of people are, by the action of Government, saved from what without it would only too probably have been death by starvation. Moreover, it is necessary not only to provide for large numbers, but to do so in a way that will meet a very rapid and sudden increase. Last week's return of persons relieved showed an increase in the single district of Allahabad from 40,000 to 98,000. Let any one attempt to realise what it is implied in providing the whole machinery of Famine Relief for 60,000 additional people in a week in one single district, and he will admit that we have a right to feel some confidence in a system which possesses such powers of expansion, and to desire to retain its action unimpeded.

If, then, Government is to maintain its relief works by which the population, as a whole, can be kept in good condition, its poor-houses for the more destitute poor, its

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gratuitous relief for the feeble and dependent, I hear it again asked, what is private charity to do? I think, if you will look to the definition of the objects which we have drawn up, you will find that through them all we invoke the exercise of individual effort. It is by the work of individuals, officials and non-officials, of men and women working among those who know and trust them, that we can hope to discover where comforts beyond the subsistence ration become a necessity, where domestic privacy conceals misery and starvation, where we can do something to make up to the orphan for the loss of a father's care, to the honest man of an independence he valued well nigh as highly as his life. This is a work thoroughly in accord with the best traditions of Indian charity—a charity which has carried us through many a time of peril, and only fails us when, under severe pressure, the sources on which it ordinarily depends run dry. Indian charity has not now been inactive, and in many cases what we have to do is to supplement and encourage its work. There exist in many centres local Committees which will be the backbone of any organisation that we now create. They have been working in concert with the Local Governments, and their number can, I doubt not, be increased, if need be.

I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying the full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds on those who are in a position to act with knowledge of the local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that, in accordance with the scheme of organisation which will be submitted to the meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day; and that the principles of action being once laid down, the Provincial Committees will be allowed the amplest discretion in the

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management of their own funds. Those funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which the donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own Province, and, in the second place, of the proportion of the General Fund which may be allotted to the Province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of the money entrusted to the Central Committee, either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required, or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot from so great a distance determine themselves where the great need may be. I feel certain that this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee, in the collection of subscriptions and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can adequately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find not rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend.

I scarcely think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My Hon'ble friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers, (by which I am sure he meant all local officers, Native and European,) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad experience that they do not hesitate to risk health, and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage the Fund we are about to raise.

Those who control public affairs and public money must be content sometimes to appear cold and calculating, for it is part of their duty to ignore their personal feelings.

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But warm hearts beat under official waistcoats, and I believe few welcome an opportunity like this more than those who habitually wear the chains of official constraint. And what is this opportunity? I can only speak for myself, but I shall consider that I had ill-used the advantages of the last three years if I could view unmoved the sufferings of a people whose patient and contented disposition in a lot that has few pleasures and many hardships, has often filled me with admiration.

I rejoice to see a wave of sympathy sweeping away all distinctions of class, or race, or creed, or opinion. The cry for sympathy that rings in our ears in this land, we know finds a ready response in the busy streets of London, of Glasgow, and in the crowded manufactories of Lancashire, and will, I believe, not be heard without avail in the rural village, the Highland glen, or in any of the distant regions to which our countrymen have carried their energy and their patriotism.

It is a sympathy which is twice blessed, which blesses him that gives and him that takes—and as such I can safely leave it in your hands.

His Excellency's remarks were very warmly received throughout.

The first Resolution was then moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair, C. I. E., President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. It was as follows :—

“That the meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India; such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government, and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations :—and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received.”

The Resolution was seconded by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., and supported by His Honor Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Hon'ble Mr. Alan Cadell, Archbishop Goethals, the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Sayani, and the Hon'ble Pandit Bisshumbhur Nath.

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All these gentlemen addressed the meeting in turn, and the Resolution, on being put by the Chairman, was adopted unanimously.

The second Resolution was proposed by the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E., and was as follows :—

“That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and the organization there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and *resolves* that a General Committee composed of the following gentleman be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund.”

The Resolution was seconded by the Hon'ble Sir Francis W. Maclean, K.T., a.c., Chief Justice of Bengal, and supported by the Bishop of Calcutta, Prince Mahomed Buhktiyar Shah, and the Hon'ble Joy Gobind Law, all of whom addressed the meeting.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

C. L. Tupper, Esq., I. C. S., then moved and the Hon'ble Mr. A. Wallis seconded the following Resolution :—

“That a cordial vote of thanks be passed to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding on this occasion and for his kindly accepting the Official Presidentship of the General Committee.”

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor put the Resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously,—a voice, evidently under a misconception, replying “no.”

In acknowledging the Resolution His Excellency the Viceroy said:—

Your Honour, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In acknowledging the nearly unanimous approval (*laughter*) with which this Resolution has been received, I desire especially to thank the Mover, Mr. Tupper, not only for what he has said, but for his attendance, and also the other gentlemen who have attended this meeting from the Punjab. They have taken the most practical manner of showing the interest which their part of the Empire feels in the movement which we are initiating to-day, and I think it is perhaps consistent with that sympathy that the last telegram which was put into my hand before I came to the meeting was one from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to this effect :—

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"Clear the line. Excellent rain at Lahore all night ; still pouring steadily ; looks widespread."

I have only to say that, as His Honour has justly said, I have taken a great interest in the arrangements for this meeting, and I shall take a great interest in what I hope will be the success of the movement which we have now started. During the course of the meeting the first list of subscriptions was put into my hands, and I find that it already amounts to something like a lakh of rupees.

I have to announce, on behalf of the Chief Justice of Bengal, who has been good enough, as you are aware, to accept the Chairmanship of the General Committee, that he proposes to summon a General Committee to meet in this place to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock to appoint an Executive Committee. This will show you that no time will be lost in getting to work, and, with the assistance which we know is coming to us from home, I have no doubt that the movement will succeed.

CONVOCATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

20th Feb. 1897. [The annual Convocation of the Calcutta University for the purpose of conferring Degrees was held in the Senate House on Saturday afternoon, the 20th February, at 3 P.M. His Excellency the Viceroy, as Chancellor of the University, presided, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (Sir A. Mackenzie) being seated on his right, and the Vice-Chancellor (Mr. Justice Trevelyan) on his left. There was a large audience of students and the general public. The Vice-Chancellor having declared the Convocation opened, presented Sir Alfred Croft, K.C.I.E., M.A., to the Chancellor, who conferred upon him the Honorary Degree of Doctor in the Faculty of Law. The various candidates were then presented with their Degrees by the Vice-Chancellor, after which His Excellency the Chancellor addressed the Convocation as follows:—]

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—My first duty is to offer my congratulations to those members of the University who have attained the student's ambition in passing their examinations and securing the stamp of the University upon them.

I have been subjected in my meetings with the University to some vicissitudes of fortune. At first I thought myself under a lucky star, for within a week of my assumption of office I was permitted to present myself before you, and I remember with gratitude the kindness which I received at your hands at the first public meeting which I attended in Calcutta. In the years that followed, however, my good fortune was somewhat obscured. In the second year I was prevented from attending by one of those calls on my time and attention to which everybody connected with the Government of India is liable; but last year I came to Calcutta with a resolute determination that nothing should prevent me from attending Convocation. Alas, like other members of the University I had not taken into my calculation the sternness of the Medical Faculty, and on that occasion I failed to pass my examination. And even to-day when I have surmounted that obstacle, and am

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once again able to meet you, I feel that we are met under a shadow which is hanging over the land, and which fills our minds with thoughts that are not altogether harmonious with the aspirations of the student or of the philosopher. I can only trust that on the fifth and last opportunity which I shall probably have of meeting you those clouds may have passed away, and I am sure there is no one in this hall who will not join with me in that earnest hope.

In one particular at all events during these three years, the University of Calcutta has been conspicuous for its good fortune. It has had as its Vice-Chancellor a gentleman than whom none could be better qualified to follow even the most distinguished of his predecessors. Himself a distinguished student, Sir Alfred Croft brought to the duties of the Vice-Chancellorship an unrivalled experience of the educational work of India extending over more than 30 years. As you know, successive Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal have expressed in official documents their appreciation of the great services of Sir Alfred Croft in the responsible office of Director of Public Instruction for the 20 years he has adorned it; and you also know that, as Registrar of the University, and as a Member of the Syndicate he had, before he assumed the Vice-Chancellorship, done good work for this University. It is, therefore, a matter of gratification to me that I have been permitted to take part to-day in conferring upon him the Degree of Doctor of Laws which has been voted to him by acclamation. I trust that he will deem it not only as a recognition of his services to the University, but as a token that we also desire that he should on his retirement carry from us in the University those same good wishes for his future prosperity that I know he will carry with him from many friends in India.

I think it will not be surprising that in looking for his successor we turned to the High Court of Calcutta. Since

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the first Vice-Chancellor, Sir James Colville, whose friendship as a near neighbour of mine in Scotland I was privileged to enjoy, no fewer I think than seven members of the High Court have lent their services in this capacity to the University; and I am sure that we shall all feel that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the distinguished Judges who have not hesitated to undertake, in addition to their own arduous labours, the responsible, and by no means light, duties of Vice-Chancellor of this University. For Mr. Justice Trevelyan, coming to us under these circumstances, and with claims of his own upon our personal regard, I need not bespeak the loyal support of every member of the University, if in any way we can co-operate and lighten his labours, and I trust that he will have a peaceful and harmonious term of office.

In expressing that wish, and in calling on the Vice-Chancellor, as I shall immediately do, to address the Convocation, I hope I shall not be understood to mean that the rulers of the University have nothing to do but to say that all is well, and to lie upon their oars. A University, like every public body, must, in my opinion, move with the times. A policy of stagnation in a University, as elsewhere, would justly be termed a policy of despair; but I think that all of us who have taken an interest in University matters elsewhere will know from our experience of what has taken place, and is still taking place in the older Universities that there is in them also a constant movement going on. It is a movement that sometimes takes the shape of heroic measures, but more often is a steady and constant flow, like the flow of a river, which is none the less sure and irresistible because to a great extent it is unseen. If well guided, a movement of that kind is not dictated by a love of change, but rather by the steady purpose of adapting to the necessities of the present the accumulated experience of the past. Therefore, I am inclined to think that nowhere is there so

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great a scope as in a University for wise, moderate, and progressive action of this kind, because in a University we have not only to consider the studies and occupations in which our students are engaged, but we must also have before us, and make ourselves acquainted with the homes from which they come, and the future to which they are encouraged to aspire. These are problems which must change with each successive generation, and which each successive generation of rulers of a University will have to solve. They relate not only to the educational attainments of the students, but also to their moral surroundings and even their physical development. In one thing at any rate I hope there will be no change, but rather in all successive generations one and the same endeavour, and that is to set before the University the highest ideal to which it can aspire. In my opinion no institution can have a better incentive to the due performance of its ordinary functions than that it should have a high ideal set before it as its ultimate goal ; and, therefore, in desiring that the University of Calcutta should maintain that foremost part in the education of this great part of the Empire of India, I hope that the Vice-Chancellor and the other rulers of the University will to-day, and to-morrow, set before them the constant aim of making it in the highest degree worthy of the confidence of the people.

I have now to call on the Vice-Chancellor to address the Convocation.

THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

19th Mar. 1897. [The twelfth annual meeting of the National Association for supplying medical aid to the women of India was held on Friday afternoon, the 19th March, at the Dalhousie Institute at 5. P.M. under the presidency of His Excellency the Viceroy. There was a large and representative gathering composed of the leading members of the European and native communities. The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved the adoption of the report in a speech of some length, and the motion was seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. Sayani. The Hon'ble J. D. Rees also addressed the meeting regarding the operations of the Association in Southern India. His Honour Sir Alexander Mackenzie moved a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding. The Honourable Rao Saheb Bhuskate seconded the motion :—

His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Honour Ladies and Gentlemen,—I do not know whether you can appreciate the difficulties which face a Viceroy in making his customary speech at this meeting, because it seems to me that all the arrangements are so devised as to throw every obstacle in his way. In the first place he has before him a report which sets forth in the utmost detail the transactions of the Association, and I may say of the report of this year that never was it more complete or more truly testifying to what Mr. Chalmers has described as the knowledge and devotion to his work of our present Honorary Secretary. In the second place, he has been preceded by the Member of the Central Committee who moved the adoption of the report, and those of you who can look back as I can to a series that runs from Sir Henry Brackenbury to my friend Mr. Chalmers know that that means an exhaustive statement of the case. He is followed by a succession of speakers equipped with local knowledge, who can be trusted to pick out any details of interest in the report. And lastly, he has to follow the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who, as His Honour has just told you, feels it

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his duty on this occasion, as speaking to a local audience, to deal with those matters in the Report which are most interesting to you on that account. And so I ask what is left for me to say? The fact is that on previous occasions I have had one excuse to give which now fails me. I have been accustomed to say that I spoke as the mouth-piece of the Lady President who sat by my side. On this occasion I am afraid all I can venture to do is to convey the echoes that come down from Government Place, but I can assure you that I am instructed to say on behalf of Her Excellency that she is with you in this meeting in spirit, and is keenly taking an interest in the proceedings of this afternoon. And perhaps I may be allowed to add this:—Last year I ventured to say that I was able to assure the meeting that Lady Elgin had all the qualities of a good nurse. This year I think I am able to say, and the Honorary Secretary to whose care we owe so much will be prepared to endorse it, that she has all the qualities of a good patient, and I venture to hope that, if she is absent this afternoon, she will be able before long to take her place again on the Central Committee. Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, under the circumstances in which I have spoken, it is hardly any use for me to enter much into the details of the report; but I should like to say just one word of congratulation to the Committee of Bengal for the very satisfactory Report which has been submitted by their Branch and has been explained to you this afternoon by His Honour. I have heard ever since I came to India of the difficulties which the Calcutta Committee had to face in connection with their Hospital, and I am exceedingly glad to hear that these are in the way to be overcome, and though of course, under the present temporary circumstances, the number of patients must show some diminution, we are entitled to hope that they will soon pass away, and that

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we shall have a hospital more worthy of the name that it bears. I offer my respectful congratulations to Lady Mackenzie on the success of the first year of her administration.

I should also like to say with what pleasure I have heard the remarks of Mr. Rees on the good fortune of the Madras Branch in securing, in Sir Arthur and Lady Havelock, a Lady President and Governor so worthy to take up the mantle of Lord and Lady Wenlock. When I was present at this meeting last year I was fresh from a meeting which I attended at Madras, and at which I had heard much of the services which Lord and Lady Wenlock had rendered to the cause in that Presidency. If I might add one word more, I remember saying at that meeting in Madras that I hoped one of the Honorary Secretaries, Surgeon-Major Browning, would continue the good service he had done to the Committee there, and I am glad to notice from the Report now before us that that hope has been fulfilled.

I am sorry to say that it is also my duty to refer for one moment to the case of Bombay which has been mentioned this afternoon. I am desired by the Lady President to say that it was with very great regret that she felt herself compelled to agree to the paragraph in the Report which calls attention to the state of the funds in that Branch. I am sure I can say for the Central Committee, as well as for the Lady President, that there is no wish whatever to interfere with the recognised principle of the Association which leaves in local hands the management of local funds, but at the same time when it appears to them that the whole existence of the Association's work in any Province is at stake it is their duty to speak out. I do not speak without having looked into the papers; I have examined the papers myself, and I can only say that it appears to me that it is very urgent indeed that something should be

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done. I recognise entirely that, at this time, with the pressure of famine and plague, it is not possible to expect our friends in Bombay to come forward with large additional funds, but it seems to me that that renders it all the more necessary that they should not allow their present capital gradually to disappear, and I would commend to their notice the remarks made on this subject in the Report. I would only just add that I am sure the Lady President will hear with great satisfaction the assurance that Mr. Sayani has given that next year a different complexion will be put upon the matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—So far as the Lady President's work during this last year has been concerned, it has been very much connected with Native States. On page 14 of the Report you will find a statement of the good work which is being done in Native States, and how cordially the Chiefs are co-operating in the work of the Dufferin Association, and on page 128 you will find that there are now included in the returns some ten additional Associations, not all of them new institutions, but institutions whose figures had not come into previous reports. Well, I venture to say that the meeting will feel that this interest in the work in Native States is highly satisfactory, and I am desired by the Lady President to say that her experience shows that the interest is continuing, and that the good work is well and energetically carried on. During this last autumn we had occasion to visit many States, and I think I may say that, in almost every one of them, there was work for the Lady President to do. We found hospitals founded in most of them—hospitals founded either in memory of the visit of some former Lady President of the Fund, or in memory of a former Ruler, or for some other similar cause; at any rate they were founded under circumstances and bore names which recognised the importance of the work of affording medical aid to women.

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I have reason to believe from things that have come to my ears that the Lady President at these visits does not hesitate to express criticism where she thinks criticism is due, and I have also reason to believe that that criticism is well received and found valuable. Still, as I said before, speaking generally and as a whole, she is of opinion that the work which she found in those Native States is good work, and is done in accordance with the principles of the Association.

My friend Mr. Rees has alluded to one State which we regret, as he does, that we were not able to visit. He has stated the reason why I was not able to accept the very kind invitation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore in 1895, namely, because of the absence of railway communication, which, I have every reason to hope, my successor will not find to impede his progress when his time comes. But I was instructed by the Lady President, by one of the echoes of which I spoke just now, to say that she has been exceedingly interested by the account now laid before the Central Committee of the work which is being done in Travancore, and that she highly appreciates the great liberality which the Maharaja has now shown for many years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The firm hold which this movement has now taken in Native States increases in my mind the importance of a consideration which I have on one or two previous occasions submitted to this meeting, namely, that it is our business here to-day, and in the Report which we have under consideration, to take account, not only of those institutions which depend for their financial support on the funds administered by the Central Committee or by Branch Committees, but that we have an interest in all the institutions which are established in India to provide medical aid for the women of India. The fact is that our interest in this matter can

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only be said to be limited by the wants of the women of India, and therefore I think that the opening paragraphs of this Report are right in saying that we welcome the co-operation of any one who is willing to work with us in accordance with the principles of the Association. As you know, in Native States we depend chiefly on the good will of the Chief who is ruling, and if, as we now so often find, the Chief gives us hearty support, it is our business to give him a place in our lines and to recognise the good work by giving it a place among the figures and returns which we submit to this annual meeting. The fact is, I think, that never before was it so clearly brought before a meeting that it is impossible to meet what the Report justly calls the "tremendous need" by one single Fund as at a moment like this when we are watching the growth of another Fund, the cause of which is very much the same, namely, the suffering poor,—I was going to say the marvellous growth which within the last few weeks it has taken. I ventured, speaking in this room a few weeks ago, to predict that the generosity of our fellow-subjects would be found in the village as in the city, in the remotest district as in the crowded street. I have reason to believe that my prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter, and I hope it is not inconsistent with the purpose of this meeting if I take this, the first public opportunity of expressing the deep gratitude which I, and I am sure every one else in India feels for the truly noble response which has been made to our appeal from every region in the world. At this particular moment there is a slight rift in the cloud. Yesterday from the Province which has supplied to us more than half of the relief workers for the first time for many weeks I received a return which showed an appreciable decrease in the numbers. In the North-Western Provinces, in the previous week, the numbers were, in round numbers, 1,650,000; the last

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return is 1,550,000, and that decrease is substantial for the whole of the Province. It is caused by a reason which was fully anticipated, but which is no less satisfactory, namely, that the people are returning to their villages to reap the harvest which was assured to them by the rains of November and December. It does not by any means follow that we ought to be too sanguine; it would be premature to slacken in the least in our efforts, or to suppose that the numbers, after the harvest is reaped, may not rise again; but, at any rate, I think we can say that we are nearing the end of the first stage of this calamity in a manner which is creditable to the foresight and devotion of the local officers. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have less hesitation in referring to this matter here for the reason also given by Mr. Sayani. The Patron of our Association is the Patron of the Indian Famine Relief Fund. I have received many letters from the Queen-Empress, written with her own hand, which I can only describe as overflowing with sympathy. It is Her Majesty's command that I should miss no opportunity of declaring in public the distress and grief which have been caused to her by the sufferings of her Indian subjects. I am sure that there is no one who doubts that, and I hope that there is no one here who will think I have transgressed by taking advantage of this opportunity of carrying out Her Majesty's orders.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1897-98.

[The Financial Statement for 1897-98 was read by the Hon'ble Sir James Westland in the Legislative Council on Friday, the 19th March, and discussed on the following Friday, the 26th. In closing the discussion, which was an unusually protracted one, lasting from 11 A.M. till 8 P.M., His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

The comments of Hon'ble Members, though they have covered a wide field, have naturally to a large extent assumed the form of a criticism of the action of the Government in one or other of the Departments for which my Hon'ble Colleagues are responsible, and they have offered such explanations as were available. I suppose of no question is that more true than of the Provincial Contracts which have bulked largely in to-day's discussion. So far, therefore, as the action of the Government of India in this matter on this occasion may be deemed to require defence, I associate myself entirely with the Finance Member, and wish to add nothing.

I should, however, like to say a word or two on the attitude towards each other of the Government of India and Local Governments on matters such as this. There is, I think, in some quarters an unfortunate tendency to represent their interests, if not as hostile, at any rate as distinct and separate, perhaps conflicting. I consider this a mischievous mistake. The Government of India and the Local Governments have each their functions to perform; but, as the Lieutenant-Governor has pointed out, they are all parts of the Government of the Queen-Empress in India, and it is their duty to look for agreement and not for difference. For my part I entirely sympathise with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Local Governments in their desire to have means at their disposal to improve their administration and to minister in various ways to the well-being of the people. We in the Government of India

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are not altogether without aspirations of the same kind, but I admit that the Local Government is brought necessarily nearer to the every-day needs of the people. The question is not as to the object, but as to the means of attaining it. Now a subordinate Government in any country can attain its objects either by using resources under its own control, or by drawing upon resources which are outside its own control. So long as it restricts itself to the first, it has a just claim to a large measure of independence. But, unfortunately, that state of things is seldom possible unless the purposes for which the subordinate Government is created are confined within narrow limits. In all other cases the subordinate Government is compelled to appeal to the Central Government for assistance, because it is the Central Government alone that can levy and administer the funds that are derived from the general taxation of the people. And this must include all the more important heads of revenue.

The appeal on behalf of the subordinate Government is no new thing: I have seen it again and again in various forms, and not only in this country. Sometimes it is for a larger share of the revenue, sometimes for greater permanence in the amount of the assignments. In every case if the Central Government does its duty, it is told it has given less than what the Local or subordinate Government wants. I think myself that it is desirable to make as much as possible of the revenue of a Local Government consist of moneys which are entirely under its own control, and it may be well worth while to consider, before the termination of the new contracts, whether the Government of India could not devolve upon Local Governments the responsibility of levying some part of the revenue which now consists of allotments from Imperial Funds. The Hon'ble Sir James Westland, speaking on his own behalf, has indicated that he is not averse to the consideration of the subject, and the Lieutenant-

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Governor has made a suggestion as to bringing it before a conference, of which I will only say that it will receive from me, as a friend of decentralization, all the consideration which is due to any suggestion coming from him. But whatever the Imperial assignment, be it a larger or a smaller proportion, I maintain that the Government of India will fail in its duty if it does not retain a constant and strict control over it. Remember, every assignment of this kind is a direct hindrance to the remission of taxation. So long as the same body imposes the taxation and is responsible for the expenditure, it can be called to account if taxes become excessive; and it will always bear in mind the necessity of diminishing, if possible, the imposts on the people. The tying up of a large part of its income by its permanent devolution to a spending authority, which is not also a taxing authority, directly diminishes these incentives to economy, and the inevitable result is that growth of income is used for increase of expenditure and not for remission of taxation. Without a surplus, remission of taxation is rarely, if ever, practicable; but as I share with my Hon'ble Colleague the hope that the financial prosperity of India is suffering only a temporary eclipse, I think he was bound to use every effort to secure that the full opportunity remains when the sun of prosperity shines forth once more.

The consideration to which I have just referred, *i. e.* that we need not deem ourselves enveloped in a perpetual cloud of misfortune, leads me to another point on which I desire to say a word. I have observed it said that "the Viceroy's zeal for Railway Construction which in itself is commendable enough, is now leading him to insist on an expenditure which the country cannot afford;" and I have noticed that most Hon'ble Members have alluded to the subject and have done so in terms to which I can take no exception, and have made an earnest, I might say a personal appeal to me to re-consider this matter. Now

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I never like to take to myself credit that does not belong to me; and if zeal in Railway Construction is commendable, I can only, as I have said before, share the commendation with successive Secretaries of State. They and I came to the conclusion that the time had come when the rate of progress in Railway Construction might with advantage be increased, and I was able last year to explain to the Council the general outlines of the programme which we hoped to carry out. I believe that no one then thought it unreasonable. Certainly it did not exhaust the possibilities; for we found, when we looked into the matter a few months later, that we had received some 130 other schemes for the extension of railway communication. But it is said the times are different, and there is a pressing demand for a large sum of money. Well, I will be perfectly frank in the matter. This seems to me simply a question of Ways and Means. We have our financial advisers in India, and our financial advisers in England. If between them they cannot find the funds required for a programme of Railway Construction, beyond all question it must be curtailed. I should be the last man to object. So far they do not think this necessity has arisen, and I am glad of it, as I suppose most Hon'ble Members are glad. I am glad, however, for special reasons of my own. I have confessed to some share in increasing our rate of Railway Construction, but I think I have been far more anxious to systematise our methods. I am convinced that the system, or rather want of system which used to prevail, was the cause of an immense amount of unnecessary labour, annoyance, and waste. Mr. Trevor has explained to you certain steps we have taken to ensure a comprehensive review of the situation. I look to great results from that review, when the procedure has been completely developed. But there is one thing essential to its success, and that is that the decisions which result from it should be absolute—that the pro-

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gramme, when settled, should be adhered to. I believe that never before has a more strenuous effort been made to adhere to a declared programme than during the last year. So far from being carried off our heads by the glamour of new lines, we have resolutely resisted many a temptation to add to them. One of the chief difficulties in famine relief operations is to find works on which to employ the people, and not unnaturally new railways are frequently suggested. We have strictly adhered to our principle not to embark in any railway not included in our programme. And we have been able to do this without in any way curtailing the opportunities of local authorities ; for, as one of the results of our conference, we were able without any delay to indicate to all Local Governments what lines in their districts were sufficiently advanced in the way of survey or otherwise to enable us to define the alignment, and we told them that in these cases we were prepared to make such arrangements that the earthworks should be available for relief works.

I hope I have said enough to show that my only object is to treat Railway Construction as a simple matter of business. I believe strongly in its being beneficial to this country. I desire to see its progress steady rather than rapid, and I know that sudden changes and contractions are fatal both in method and economy. But I have never wished, and would never consent, to set it above all other considerations.

It is impossible not to read Famine in every page of this Budget. It has swallowed up the hopes of the Hon'ble Finance Member held out to us last year, and we are still unable to see clearly how or when we are to escape from its influence. I could have wished that the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, who has in former debates criticised the action of the Government in the matter of Famine Insurance, had seen his way to acknowledge that the experience of this winter has shown that the Government

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has not, after all, been so far wrong. Can any one venture to calculate what the position would have been if the Government, during the last 15 years, had not imposed taxes for Famine Insurance, and spent the money on the improvement of the means of communication and other protective works? Further, if the estimates which the Local Government have made are correct, the sum total of the deficits which my honourable friend has to make good does not amount to more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. But the Famine Insurance money, so far as not spent on protective works, has been used to permit the Government to avoid the creation of debt. That means to say that at this present moment the Government would otherwise have incurred 5 crores more of debt, and it could now raise 5 crores, if necessary, for the purposes of famine expenditure, without increasing its liabilities beyond what they would have been had the idea of Famine Insurance never been propounded. The Government can raise this money now, and on better terms than ever before; and it seems to me that the fact that they have dealt wisely and prudently with the yearly balances devoted to this purpose is abundantly proved. I think there will be no dispute that we are at the present moment providing without stint whatever is required for coping with the great calamity. I would fain hope that the recognition of these facts would tend to promote a sense of the integrity of the Government, and also general good feeling. We have alongside of it that remarkable manifestation of generosity which has poured into India from all parts of the world during the last few weeks a constant flow of subscriptions, large and small, exceeding yesterday a crore of rupees. It is impossible to estimate the blessings which will accrue to many a sufferer, and I think I may without impropriety on behalf of this Council acknowledge the deep gratitude we feel to the Lord Mayor of London, and all those who have worked with him to bring about

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this splendid result, and to testify to the sincerity of their sympathy with their fellow-subjects in distress.

One word only I would add. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Sayani in the course of his remarks referred to one point, namely, the condition of the people. No one feels more keenly than I that Government does not discharge the whole of its duty even if it provides adequate funds for meeting calamities like that of this year and administers them well. These calamities are, I fear, inevitable in the circumstances of India. But Government is bound never to lose sight of the condition of the people, or to fail to take any opportunity it can of ameliorating it. Sir J. Woodburn mentioned the other day that the subject, and specially the indebtedness of the people, had been under our consideration. It is one of the disappointments of this year that our work in this respect has inevitably been postponed. Our programme of work had been laid out and it might by now have been well advanced, but the events which have had the result of practically doubling the already heavy work of the two departments under the charge of the Hon'ble Member have been too strong even for his indefatigable energy. But this I can say, that we have no intention of dropping the subject. Personally I may be deprived of the opportunity I had desired of associating myself with reforming legislation. I cannot but be conscious, as I am speaking within a few minutes of the close of the 4th session during which I have had the honour of presiding at this Council, that the deliberate forms of Indian legislation do not encourage the expectation that I can see any large measures such as those I have referred to pass into law during my time here. But we can at least pave the way, and I have every confidence that in sympathy for the people, and in earnest wish for improving the conditions under which they live, the present Government of India will be able to show a record of which they need not be ashamed.

MEETING OF THE ARMY TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION
AT SIMLA.

17th May 1897. [The Annual Meeting of the Army Temperance Association was held on Monday, May 17th, at the Town Hall, Simla. The meeting, which was well attended, chiefly by officers and soldiers of the Army, was presided over by the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, and the officers of the Army. Head Quarters Staff being present.

His Excellency addressed the Meeting as follows :—]

Your Excellency, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—If I felt a moment's hesitation when your Excellency first proposed that I should take the Chair on this occasion, it was from no doubt as to my duty. I felt, and I feel still, as I am not a soldier, some diffidence in speaking on a subject, to deal with which effectively requires a knowledge of soldiers and of a soldier's life. But there were two considerations that were immediately present to my mind. In the first place, I have owed too much on many occasions to your Excellency's support to fail to respond with alacrity if you ever called upon me for mine; and, in the second place, no Viceroy of India could for a moment entertain the thought that the welfare of the Army was no concern of his. The day has gone by when the Governor General was also Commander-in-Chief, and I can assure my gallant friend that I look upon the change from the good old times with no regret whatever, and that I do not envy him his heavy responsibilities. But since I came to India I have, in virtue of my office, received the salute of thousands of brave men, and I recognise that this entails corresponding duties. Lastly, if I may add a third consideration more directly affecting myself, I belong to a country and a race that has not been unmindful of deeds of arms, and I cannot help it if my pulse sometimes quickens at the sound of the bugle—or shall I say the bagpipe?

I have troubled you with this definition of my position

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because I want to make it clear for whom I do, and for whom I do not, claim to speak.

I do not claim to speak for those who know by experience the dangers that beset the daily life of the soldier, and the various ways in which it is sought to assist him in avoiding them; but I do claim to speak for those who, officially or individually, feel a deep interest in the soldier, and in his well-being as a man and as a servant of the State.

We are met here this afternoon in support of an Association whose one object is the well-being of the soldier, by urging upon him the value of Temperance. For the purposes of this Association Temperance has a specific meaning; but, while we recognise this, I am not sure that we shall not appreciate the specific meaning better if we think for a moment what Temperance in its wider signification implies. What is the temperate man in any relation of life? Evidently he will not be subject to violent passions. He will not be prone to run to extremes. He will not provoke opposition, though it does not follow he will encounter less of it. He will avoid danger, not because he fears it, but because he will foresee and guard against it. Perhaps some may think that the man whom I am describing is a poor, cold, calculating creature, and very likely a coward at heart. I deny it altogether. Prudence, caution, a reasonable respect for one's adversary,—these are qualities which are consistent with the most resolute courage. The description of a soldier by our greatest poet was probably not untrue to nature in his time, and I am not sure it has been banished from all minds yet:—

“A soldier,

“Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,

“Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,

“Seeking the bubble reputation

“Even in the cannon's mouth.”

But I am very much mistaken if the Commander-in-Chief would choose one of Shakespeare's bravos for a responsible post. I think he would look rather for the conjunction of

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courage and self-control, of which we have had an example within the last few months in an event which, while undoubtedly a disaster for the Government of India, cannot be mentioned here, or in England, without a thrill of pride. I refer to the loss of the *Warren Hastings*. Think of the Commander who, in the bitterest moment of his life, rose at once to the emergency, and never faltered in doing what was necessary to save the lives of those on board. Think of the soldiers and sailors who stood to their places and obeyed their orders, though the water rose and the ship heeled over. Think of that gallant episode in the engine room, where, in the determination that the horrors of utter darkness should not be added to the tragedy, men of the East and the West fed the fires to the last, knowing that with any sudden lurch of the vessel they would be drowned like rats in a cage. Think—we must not forget it—of the intrepid demeanour of the women ready, if opportunity had offered, to set an example to the men. The disaster becomes a triumph. Why? Not from any demonstration of wild, rollicking, reckless bravado, but from a display of cool and disciplined courage, the outcome of self-control, of temperance in its highest sense.

If I ask any one here whom he would choose to have at his side in the hour of need—the man described by Shakespeare, or the man of the *Warren Hastings* type, I have no doubt whatever as to the answer.

I have put before you my high estimation of the temperate man in the general sense, and more particularly in connection with military pursuits, because I think it will show that I proceed to the consideration of the vice of drunkenness with a predisposition in favour of temperance.

It is impossible for me to discuss this great subject exhaustively, and, were it not for one reason, I should be much disposed to leave the exposition of the aims and objects of the Army Temperance Association to those who can speak with expert knowledge. But I do not wish to

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sail under false colours. I find that the foundation on which the operations of the Army Temperance Association are based is a pledge of Total Abstinence, and as I have always been unable to accept the doctrine that Total Abstinence is the goal to which all who desire to promote temperance are bound to look, I wish shortly to say why I take that view, and why, taking it, I am still prepared to support this Association.

It is undeniable that if no intoxicating liquors existed men could not become intoxicated, and if, as I suppose is the case, all intoxicating liquors are manufactured by man, human authority could no doubt, if it was strong enough, put a stop to drunkenness by prohibiting manufacture. I can perfectly understand how, under these circumstances, men deeply impressed with the great evils of drunkenness adopt a policy of prohibition and its corollary Total Abstinence. But I cannot follow them. To me it is a policy of despair, a despair of enlisting in the cause of temperance the higher qualities of the human race—the qualities that go to make up the temperate man—and a despair which is not justified by the facts.

It is not necessary in this matter to go back to the time of Shakespeare. Let any one read the records of a hundred years ago and tell me if the sentiments in respect of drinking, then openly professed by the highest and lowest alike, would now be tolerated in the society he frequents, or the village in which he was born. I am satisfied from my own observation that this great change is, perhaps, slowly, but surely and steadily progressing, like the circles spread over the pool into which we throw a stone; and I shall not be out of sympathy with the feelings of the present hour, if I attribute it, in part at least, to the ennobling influence which for the last 60 years has emanated from the Throne and elevated the whole character of our national life.

I for one am not prepared to abandon the hope that that

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influence, and the spirit it has evoked, will in the end earn for us the high reputation of a temperate nation. But though I hold these views on the main question, still I feel able to support the work of the Army Temperance Association, which is based on the principle of Total Abstinence. I spoke just now of the circles caused by a stone thrown into a pool. You will have noticed that these circles as they spread, subside slowly and gradually, ever with less movement of the surface of the water. The natural conditions reassert themselves as you get further from the centre. So in our endeavour to overcome a social or moral evil we must expect to find that human nature does not at once declare itself on our side. I cannot trespass into the province of the philosopher, or discuss how far great mysteries, such as heredity, affect us. It will suffice for my purpose if I say that I think ardent reformers do not always allow sufficiently for the presence in human nature of wayward impulse, which may not be wholly an evil, though it too often leads to evil, but which cannot be brought under control in a day or by a stroke of the pen, and must be conquered by patience and the training of years, or perhaps of generations. If then I find men exposed to peculiar temptations at an age peculiarly liable to temptation—and that is the lot of the young soldier landing in India,—and if I find a means to save them from themselves proposed as the best available under present circumstances by such true soldiers and true friends to the soldier as Sir G. White and Lord Roberts, it would require very strong reasons to induce me to reject it.

And what is it that is proposed to the soldier? Simply this, that the man who does not feel himself strong enough to escape from the thralldom of drink should by his promise given to the Association give himself one more inducement to stand firm. I think most of us at some period of our lives have known how it only requires something to turn the scale to determine our action one

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way or the other. The knowledge that his word is pledged, the tokens of membership which the Association bestows—these are helps which it is well worth the soldier's while to secure, if help he needs. The annual reports show clearly how much he has at stake. They show that for the temperate man the Court Martial and the Hospital have fewer fears, the future has brighter prospects; and any of us who have been employers of labour will know how true the latter is, and how essential a reputation for sobriety is for a man who on taking his discharge seeks employment in any respectable line of life.

Sir, I have left, as I said at the beginning I would, the soldiers who will follow me to say what is necessary from the soldier's point of view. I have read with much interest the reports of the Army Temperance Association with which the Secretary has kindly furnished me; but others can better draw attention to material points, and specially to the circumstances of the meeting. They can tell us, and I hope they will tell us, what has been done to encourage temperance and a manly and respectable life, and to afford the soldier, if he chooses to take advantage of them, opportunities for his moral, intellectual, and physical improvement.

I have abstained, for in this respect again I am not qualified, from making any appeal to religion and to the duties which respect for religion imposes upon us; and I will only here adopt the words lately used by the Archbishop of Canterbury, that indulgence in sin is an evil which should be condemned by every good soldier.

I have not attempted tricks of oratory, and have merely put before you certain arguments which weigh with me in the consideration of this great subject of Temperance. But there is one thing I would like to add, more particularly to the soldiers present. I would have them remember that though the Empire of India may have been

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won by the sword, and though it will be defended by the sword against all comers, still there is yet another thing on which the British rule in India must depend, and that is the maintenance of the honour, the character of the British name. That honour—that character—is not entrusted only to those who are sent out to occupy positions of authority. It is the inheritance of every man of British race, and every man, certainly every man who wears the Queen's uniform, has it in his keeping. If this Association can make good its assertion that greatly through its agency one-third of the British Army in India is saved in the eyes of the natives of this country from the great disgrace of drunkenness, I for one acknowledge that it has established claims on my support, and on the allegiance of the soldiers whom it seeks to enrol in its ranks.

[The Commander-in-Chief then spoke briefly reviewing the growth and work of the Association during the last eight years. General Sir E. Collen and General Morton also spoke in support of the aims of the Temperance movement, and the General Secretary, the Rev. J. H. Bateson, gave a summary of the growth and objects of the Association. A vote of thanks to His Excellency from the Lieutenant-Governor closed the proceedings.]

CELEBRATION OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE AT SIMLA.

[On Friday, May 21st, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall, Simla, to determine the manner in which to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. His Excellency the Viceroy attended by his Private and Military Secretaries and members of his staff was present and presided. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and Mrs. Mackworth Young, Sir George and Lady White, and a large assembly of ladies and gentlemen representing all classes of the community of Simla, both European and native, were present. 21st May 1897.]

The Viceroy addressed the meeting as follows :—]

Your Excellency, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is at the request of Colonel Robertson, whose orders, as President of the Simla Municipality, you have been accustomed to obey with great advantage for many years, that I take the chair on this occasion, and I am exceedingly grateful to him and to you for allowing me to appear to-day in the capacity of a resident in Simla and to shake off official fetters. I confess that in reference to a matter which is not altogether out of keeping with the object of this meeting, I have felt the gall of official fetters a little lately. It has been my duty to make an announcement which I know has conveyed considerable disappointment to many of Her Majesty's subjects in India, *viz.*, that, for reasons which, I am bound to say, I have every cause to know are good and sufficient, it has not been possible to arrange for deputations of Her Majesty's Indian subjects to offer to her personally the congratulations of India on this occasion. But it is difficult in making official announcements of that kind to convey, as one might wish to do, one's own personal feelings of sympathy; and I should like to say that, though it has been my duty to make this disappointing announcement, I have felt, and still feel, the greatest sympathy with the wish of

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those gentlemen who desired to proceed to England, and with their disappointment at not being able to do so. I have read also with sympathy, though with some admiration of their ingenuity, various applications which have come from individual gentlemen saying how great would be the advantage of their individual presence in England on a public occasion; and, if I may still further speak my mind, I have also felt sometimes a little sympathy for the Viceroy himself, on whom, as far as I know, no one has wasted a thought, except a kindly London tailor who offered to construct his official garment for the ceremony.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, my instructions from Colonel Robertson are contained in this paper, and they are to explain briefly the objects of the meeting; and for one reason, at any rate, I can carry out his directions and speak briefly, because I find that the programme before me is a considerably extended one, and there is no deficiency of speakers. I take it for granted that those speakers will lay before you the several proposals in detail, and as the practice which, I have seen it said, prevails elsewhere, has not been followed, and I have not had the opportunity of perusing the speeches which are to be made on this occasion, I am afraid, if I entered into details, I might either, on the one hand, commit myself to some difference of opinion which I wish to avoid, or, with the usual perversity of the speaker who speaks first, appropriate to myself some of those good points which those who are to follow me are treasuring up. Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall speak to this subject generally, and in very few words. Whether it be true, or whether it be false, that we residents of Simla, on the heights of the Himalayan Mountains, are absolutely removed from the ordinary course of business, and from sympathy with our fellow subjects, it does not concern us on this occasion to enquire. The event which is to be celebrated next month

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will be celebrated wherever the British flag is displayed, whether it is on the shores of the ocean or on the heights of the hills; and I think it is an event which may well merge all differences of opinion in one common prayer, in one common thanksgiving, in one common manifestation not of loyalty only, but of warm and tender admiration and affection—admiration and affection for the Sovereign Lady whose hold on our hearts every year strengthens and increases; a thanksgiving that her reign has extended beyond the limit of any one of her predecessors in the long and glorious line of British Sovereigns; a prayer that a life so valuable may be yet prolonged for the benefit of her people.

I think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we can well leave to those who conduct our religious observances to recognise that this is an occasion in which the wishes and supplications of our hearts will find expression under the forms of any creed and in the tongue of any race. All that we have to do here to-day is to consider in what manner we shall manifest our participation in the national rejoicing of the next month, not only as regards the present but as to handing down its recollection to those who will succeed us in this place; and I think you will agree that I could not call upon any one more fitted to take the first step in a movement of this kind than His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

[The Commander-in-Chief, Sir G. White, then addressed the meeting, proposing that an address should be presented to Her Majesty. The Master of the Punjab Trades Association, seconded the proposition. The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir J. Westland, Sir J. Woodburn, Sir E. Collen and others, also addressed the meeting. Genl. Morton proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.]

RECEPTION OF JUBILEE ADDRESSES TO THE QUEEN-EMPRESS, AT SIMLA.

22nd June 1897.¹ [On Tuesday, June 22nd, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General received, at the Town Hall, Simla, the Deputations bearing congratulatory addresses for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

The Town Hall had been especially prepared for the occasion, being decorated with light blue and white hangings, while over the gallery running round the hall were hung the scarlet and gold jhools belonging to the State Howdahkhana. At one end of the hall a dais was prepared for His Excellency; in the gallery, seats were arranged for the Countess of Elgin, Mrs. Mackworth Young, Lady Maclean, Lady White, the Ladies Bruce, the rest of the gallery being occupied by ladies. In the body of the hall seats were arranged to accommodate some 600 officers, civil and military, and gentlemen, in addition to the members of the Deputations.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin arrived at the Town Hall at 11 A.M., escorted by a detachment of the Punjab Light Horse, and of the Viceroy's Body-Guard. A Guard of Honor of the Black Watch, with band and colour, was drawn up on the Ridge, and another guard of the 2nd Punjab Volunteer Rifles under the Command of Col. W. S. S. Bisset. The Town of Simla was gaily decorated with flags, bunting and floral arches. His Excellency, who arrived in a downpour of rain, was received with a Royal Salute and met at the door by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and a procession was formed of His Excellency's and the Lieutenant-Governor's personal staff, and marched up to the dais, the Band of the Highland Light Infantry playing a march.

All present in the Reception Hall rose to their feet and remained standing till His Excellency had taken his seat. On his right was seated the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, and on his left the Commander-in-Chief, while seats were provided on the dais for the members of the Viceregal Council, the Secretaries to the Government of India, the Bishop of Lahore, the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, and the personal staffs of His Excellency the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief and the Lieutenant-Governor.

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When all were seated, the Deputations, which were forty-two in number, were conducted, each in turn, by the Foreign Secretary to the dais. The caskets containing the various addresses were presented to His Excellency by the heads of the Deputations, and the members of Deputations were individually presented to the Viceroy. At the conclusion of the presentation, His Excellency addressed the assemblage as follows :—]

The rule in England is that addresses from public bodies are submitted to Her Majesty through the Secretary of State ; and when I was consulted from various quarters on the subject of addresses from India, my friend the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who with his usual public spirit was interesting himself in the matter, and who, I know, regrets as much as I do that doctor's orders have prevented his being with us to-day, put it to me that, though his countrymen would value the privilege of presenting themselves with their addresses before Her Majesty, they recognised that this was a point which must depend entirely on Her Majesty's wishes. On a request expressed with so much loyalty and regard for Her Majesty's convenience I had no hesitation in taking Her Majesty's orders, and Her Majesty was pleased to direct that I should receive these addresses on her behalf.

It appeared to me impossible adequately to perform a duty so honourable without at least inviting those who were able to do so to meet me on this day and without receiving them with the proper ceremonial. It has been a great satisfaction to me to find present on this occasion so large a number of deputations. There are parts of this great Empire so distant that no one could expect them to send representatives, but, even as it is, many of you have travelled far. All the provinces that go to make up the Presidency of Bengal in its widest sense are represented here ; so is the Presidency of Bombay ; we have men of different race, lineage, religion, occupation, interest,

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language, but all full of one purpose, animated by one sentiment.

It is in the name of the Queen-Empress that I bid you welcome and receive at your hands the addresses which you have presented to me. It is on behalf of the Queen-Empress and by her special desire that I thank you for your attendance here to-day, and for the expression of your loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty. I was directed to forward a summary of the terms of these addresses, which I did in the following telegram:—

“The general purport is to congratulate Her Majesty on the longest reign of British sovereigns, and express loyalty to the throne and devotion to Her Majesty’s person, to express gratitude for the Proclamation of 1858 and the blessings of internal peace during Her Majesty’s reign. The addresses dwell on the moral and intellectual progress, on the advance in good government, on the development of communications throughout the country, the growth of trade and commerce, and of education, the advance in social economy and political status, the extension of the free press during the reign, and particularly since the direct assumption of the Government of India by the Crown. They refer to Her Majesty’s feelings for the Indian people, particularly to the sympathy shown them in the calamities of famine and plague. They express admiration of Her Majesty as wife, mother, and sovereign, and pray for the long continuance of her reign, and for further blessings on herself and on her family.”

I have now the great honour and privilege to convey to you in reply what I may fairly say will in all probability be the earliest utterance of Her Majesty on this Jubilee Day. I hold in my hand this telegram sent by the Secretary of State late last night:

“I am commanded by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress to say that she has received with pleasure and satisfaction your telegram conveying to her the terms of the addresses

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presented to-day to her Representative at Simla for transmission to herself. She appreciates highly these proofs of the loyalty and devotion of her Indian subjects, whose prosperity and happiness it has ever been her earnest desire to promote. She authorises you to convey to them her thanks and her best wishes for their welfare."

I have also made arrangements by which I shall immediately report by telegraph, for Her Majesty's information, that I have delivered her message to this meeting, and it will be my duty to forward with all despatch the addresses with which you have entrusted me, as well as the large number of loyal messages, written and telegraphic, which have been pouring in upon me during the last few days, and which I take the opportunity of publicly acknowledging. I venture to assert with the utmost confidence that of all the communications which the event of this day will bring from every quarter of the globe none will be dearer to Her Majesty's heart than those which assure her of the affection of her subjects in India.

I have seen it stated that the event we celebrate to-day is the merest accident, the fact, namely, that George III did not reign longer than in truth he did reign. Well, life is full of these accidents, and we may well leave our cynical friend to enjoy his cynicism if it pleases him. For my part I think the occurrence of the longest reign in a succession of monarchs that takes us back over a thousand years would be a notable event in the history of any country, and that the people must be callous indeed that deemed it of no account. And when, as in the present instance, the record of that reign is shown to be a record of progress which the monarch has constantly fostered and promoted, only the basest ingratitude could refuse the congratulations so well earned.

I have said that the record of this reign is a record of progress. To establish that statement in all its details would entail a strain on your attention which I have no

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right to demand. But does any one doubt it? Let me in the briefest possible manner endeavour to illustrate my meaning.

The information available does not enable me to state precisely or in figures what the extension of the area of the Empire during this reign has been. A responsible statesman said a short time ago that the addition of the last 12 years had been 2,600,000 square miles, and that it has been very large, especially in Africa, is undoubted. Of India I can speak more exactly. Of course in 1837 no part of India was directly under the Crown, but British India as held by the Company in that year comprised 560,000 square miles. British India now extends to 1,068,000 square miles. Or take the test of population: the population of British India in 1837 was about 110,000,000; in 1897 it may be stated at 230,000,000, and including Native States there are within the Indian Empire some 300,000,000 persons who own allegiance to Her Majesty. Naturally in some of what used to be the waste regions of the earth the proportionate increase has been the greatest, and thus we find that in the Colony of Victoria a census at the end of 1836 recorded 224 persons; the last census in 1891, 1,140,000 persons. Of the older colonies the population of Canada has increased fivefold, and that of England and Wales itself has doubled. To cut a long story short, the British Empire now contains within its limits 400,000,000 people, or, as it is estimated, something like a fourth of the total number of human beings that dwell on the face of the earth.

Nor can it be denied that the prosperity of the Empire has increased at least in proportion to the increase of its area or its population. The volume of its trade is a pretty good indication of a nation's prosperity. Now in 1840 the foreign trade of the United Kingdom (export and import) stood at something like £120,000,000; in 1890 its value had risen to nearly £700,000,000. But if this is to grow

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by leaps and bounds, India's leap has been even longer, for the foreign trade of India, which in 1837-8 amounted to nineteen crores, in 1894-5 had reached the great total of two hundred crores of rupees.

Do not think, however, that even these figures are any adequate measure of the great changes that during this reign have altered and improved the conditions under which the people live. I have spoken so often of the triumphs in the discoveries of the use of steam and electricity, that I shall not detain you on that subject to-day. I will only remind you that in the pages of Miss Eden you will find an account of the troubles of a journey to Simla, even for a Governor General in 1837,—a journey, moreover, which resulted in his absence from Calcutta for two years; and, comparing them with the ease, economy, and expedition with which you have yourselves accomplished that journey, some of you at least will appreciate the enormous boon conferred on the community, and particularly on the poorer portion of the community, by the improvement in the means of communication which this reign has seen.

And there is a public institution closely connected with this improvement that enters even more intimately into our daily life which I may quote as one more typical instance of progress. It so happened that it was in 1837 that a public Post was first established in India. No doubt letters were transmitted before that time by various agencies, and I imagine at varying cost and rates of speed, but then for the first time Government undertook to carry letters from Calcutta to Bombay at what was, I suppose, considered the reasonable charge of one rupee per tola. I do not know how many letters were carried then, but I do know that now about 400,000,000 are delivered in the course of the year by the Indian Post Office and the cost is one anna per tola. It is almost inconceivable what an enormous and far-reaching change this means. It was brought home to

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my mind in reading the records of the Chitral Expedition when I found the very large amount of business done by the Post Office in money orders throughout the campaign. What would the sepoy of 1837 have thought if it had been suggested to him that from among the wild hills of Chitral then a land unknown and unexplored, he could regularly, expeditiously, and without the slightest difficulty remit his pay for the maintenance of his family and his home.

These facts are impressive, and it is tempting to pursue the study of them; but I forbear, and will not attempt to do more than indicate these lines of investigation,—there are many others not only of material but of moral and intellectual progress, which may prove interesting to those who have leisure. For, after all, the thoughts of every one of us this day are with the Queen-Empress herself. It is love and devotion to Her Majesty's person to which we desire to give expression.

And in this connection there is one consideration to which I should like to direct your attention, and that is the wonderful manner in which the very circumstances which many would have supposed to be her weakness have in Her Majesty's hands proved sources of strength.

Take, for example, the operations of war. This has been a reign whose first object has been peace; but no ruler can under all circumstances decline the stern arbitrament of war, and a reign that has known the gallant deeds of the Crimea, of the Mutiny, of the Nile, of Afghanistan, and many other campaigns too numerous to name, has not been deficient in military spirit. It is only the king, conscious of his bodily strength, who can bid his soldiers follow in the press of battle the plumed helmet of Navarre; but for sixty years British troops—I include of course all who have fought under the British flag—have known that there was one voice that would be the first to convey approval of their valour, to breathe a loving sympathy in every pain or loss. And, speaking in the presence of men

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who bear on their breasts the tokens that they have shared in the brave deeds to which I have referred, I ask,—is there in the wide world a sovereign for whom brave men would sooner dare and die than for Victoria our Queen?

Take again a less exciting and more subtle but a more difficult aspect. I have spoken of the enormous expansion of the Empire during this reign. History tells us of men like Alexander, like Cæsar, like Napoleon, who have swept away every obstacle and by force of will have compelled vast regions to submit to their dominion; but never before has so vast an Empire grown up under the rule of a constitutional Sovereign. I had occasion last September to point out how Time has removed one by one her trusted ministers from the Councils of the Queen, and I will not again dwell upon that topic, or the sense of isolation thus forced upon her; but again I say that the position which to the conquering monarch might seem weakness, has by a constant sense of duty, by womanly tact and womanly dignity been made one of such honour, stability, and real power that no throne in these respects can vie with the British Throne.

Once more, if any one had been able to look forward over these sixty years, he might well have uttered a word of caution from the fact that our Sovereign was to be a woman. I have shown that in war and in affairs of state the weakness has become strength. Need I make my observations more general? There are two pictures which I would fain present to you if I were able. One, that is well known from the pencil of painters and from the description of more eloquent lips than mine, the scene of the young girl taking her seat in her first Council with maidenly modesty, but at the same time with dignified self-possession. The other, the scene which will be witnessed on the day that is now dawning in London, the description of which will be flashed to us across the seas along the wires that annihilate distance, of the great Queen, the mother of sons and

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daughters, whose descendants share the thrones of the Great Empires of Germany and Russia, welcomed in her capital city by millions of her subjects, ever preserving towards them the same winning and ready condescension.

Again I say the weakness has become strength. It has inspired her army with devotion, her ministers with confidence, her people with affection. It has made her Court naturally and almost without effort the centre of good influences that are destined to leave their mark on generations yet unborn. It has shown us a personality which we, her subjects throughout all the world, this day honour and reverence.

What more need I say? Only one word. I have I think shown that the strength of our Sovereign of sixty years has come from her being actuated by two great principles,—love of her people and the conscientious performance of duty. We are met to-day to declare our admiration, and I rejoice to know that we intend, if we can, to commemorate this great event in various parts of the country in forms that may recall it to the minds of those who come after us. But I cannot help feeling as I look round this assembly, knowing that I speak in the presence both of those who are supreme in matters civil and military in this Indian Empire, and also, as I said at the beginning, of representatives of many interests that go to make up the life of that Empire—I cannot help feeling I say that we have perhaps within our reach a memorial than which none could be more appropriate to our Sovereign's life, none I believe in its purpose more consonant to her feelings. Some of you may have seen the mounds which, according to tradition, consist of handfuls of sand brought by pilgrims from the holy places of their pilgrimage and deposited as a sign of the performance of their vow. The names of the builders are unknown, but their work remains. Would it be impossible for each of us here present to register a vow that we would contribute, humbly, unobtrusively, each

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our little towards the great work of removing the differences, or at least softening the asperities which too often disfigure the intercourse of the inhabitants of this land in which we live?

Under the mysterious dispensation of Providence this year, which we would fain have had one of unmingled joy and thanksgiving, has in India witnessed dire calamities from visitations of Famine and Pestilence, and now from the convulsions of nature. We know how much the cloud of sorrow that has thus dimmed the glad prospect has weighed upon Her Majesty. But we know also how, under the guiding influence of Her Majesty, those calamities have called forth a manifestation of good-will from every part of the world, the generosity of which, as many of these addresses avow, has been warmly appreciated and will not readily be forgotten. The memory of the Indian Famine Fund of 1897 will itself be no inapt memorial of the Victorian Age.

Certain am I that if in this year of Jubilee we can make an earnest effort to promote greater confidence between rulers and ruled, more forbearance where racial or religious feeling is apt to lead to strife, juster views of the supreme importance of peace and good-will, we shall have done something to raise to our beloved Sovereign a memorial more enduring than brass, of which any monarch and any nation might be proud.

[The procession was then reformed, and His Excellency left the Town Hall under a Royal Salute.]

MAHOMEDAN ANGLO-ORIENTAL COLLEGE, ALIGARH.

25th Nov. 1897.

[The Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin accompanied by the members of His Excellency's Staff, left Simla on Thursday, the 25th of November, and arrived at Aligarh on the following morning. Here they were received by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, K.C.S.I., L.L.D., Mr. Theodore Beck, Principal of the College, and the Trustees who were introduced to Their Excellencies by the Commissioner of Meerut. Their Excellencies then drove to the College, which they spent some time in inspecting, after which they received an address from the Trustees in the Strachey Hall. The address, which was read by Syed Mahmud (Trustee and Honorary Joint Secretary of the College), recapitulated the objects which the founders of the College had in view and stated that during the past twenty years the Trustees had done their best to carry out those aims in which they had received uniform encouragement from the British rulers of India. The ultimate end which the Trustees had in view was the foundation in India of a University for the Mahomedans of India; their progress had been hampered by ignorance, bigotry and jealousy, and the finances had suffered owing to certain defalcations. Finally they asked permission to found a scholarship in honour of the Viceroy's visit, to be called the "Elgin Scholarship."

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Beck requested His Excellency to distribute some medals to the students for academic distinctions and as prizes in the Allahabad University Athletic Tournament. In doing so he remarked on the relations of the educational system to the State. Educated Indian Mahomedans were as a class, he said, thoroughly loyal, and they had a noble example in the founder of the College, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. On the other hand, he thought that the Indian Universities had, as a rule, entirely ignored the duty they owed to the State of training loyal citizens. He referred to the ignorance that existed regarding the economic and social conditions of India before the coming of the English, and remarked at some length on the delusions, and the political mischief arising from them, that prevail amongst students of the present day who "grow up not only in ignorance of facts like these, but in the extraordinary belief that the country has been, and is being, impoverished by the British Government."

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His Excellency then distributed the medals, after which he replied to the address of the Trustees in the following terms:—]

Sir Syed Ahmed and Gentlemen,—In thanking you for the address which you have presented to me I am afraid the first thing I must do is to make one more claim upon your kindness. The fact is that during the last week I have suffered from a very severe cold which has affected my vocal organs, and I have great doubts whether I can make you hear to-day. At any rate, I think I must curtail to some extent the reply which I would desire to make to the address which you have presented to me; but I can assure you that it is with great pleasure that I find myself to-day in the College of Aligarh. As you are aware, till very lately, I had no expectation of coming here; indeed, it had been my expectation and hope that at this moment I should have been in the fair Province of Burma in the far East, in that youngest of the sister provinces of the Empire, but one full of interest and of promise for the future. I am, I frankly confess, disappointed that I have not gone, and I am deeply disappointed from the sense that I have disappointed others, because I know well now by experience the kindly preparations which are everywhere made when the representative of the Queen-Empress is expected. I can only hope that my friends in Burma, if I may so call them, will accept the assurance that nothing, except what I believe to be the imperative call of duty, would have induced me to forego my visit on this occasion. But when I turned to consider what I could do with the few remaining days that fell to me before I am due at Calcutta, a visit to Aligarh was one of the first things that suggested itself. It is not for the first time that I have had that presented to my mind, but on other occasions the opportunity was wanting, and while I have great pleasure in being here to-day I have also to thank you very much for accepting me at so short a notice.

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Gentlemen,—I think it is well understood that this College owes its foundation to the independent effort of the Mahomedan community, under the leadership of our respected friend, Sir Syed Ahmed. In the address which you have read you have, very rightly, enumerated the names of many benefactors, not only of your own community, amongst whom you give a due prominence to His Highness the Nizam, but also other benefactors of other creeds, whom you also rightly do not forget. I do not think that I need, on this occasion, enter into financial matters except to make one remark. Every body of course admits the advantage of a large income. Yes, but there is another thing which, from my own experience of educational endowments, I venture to think is almost as important as a large income, and that is a sure income. A College depends for its success very much upon the place which it has secured in the estimation of the public, but a College cannot gain a reputation, and a College cannot keep a reputation except by good work continuously carried on for many years; and I believe that it is next door to impossible to maintain steady good educational work if the income is subject to constant and severe fluctuations. That is the reason why I say that not only an adequate but a well secured and safely invested Endowment Fund is so necessary for a College of this kind. I do not know exactly how you stand in this respect, but I have ventured to make these few remarks as a bit of practical advice drawn from my own experience, which may, perhaps, be of use to those who are willing to benefit the College now or hereafter.

Gentlemen,—The address has stated the objects with which this College was founded, and I think I should not be going far wrong if I said it was based upon the principle of self-help. It was due to the determination of Syed Ahmed in particular, and of others who collaborated with him, to remove, to some extent at any rates

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from your community, the disadvantage—I was almost going to say the reproach—that in the qualifications which are so necessary for success in life in the present day you were lamentably behind hand. Now, if I am right in this definition of the object, I can only say that it appeals to my entire sympathy. I have often had appeals made to me, not only from Mahomedans, but from other sections and creeds, to assist them in obtaining employment, especially in the Government service. Now, I say without hesitation that the Government welcomes into its service men of every creed, and would fain see in its service all those creeds represented in a fair proportion to their influence and their numbers; but you will easily understand that there is nothing which makes the realisation of that desire of Government more difficult than if men do not take the trouble to qualify themselves to be efficient servants of the State. Therefore, I welcome with all my heart this effort of the Mahomedans to put themselves in line with the rest of their fellow-subjects.

Gentlemen,—For the reason which I gave you at the beginning, I do not think I am capable to-day of going into any detailed examination of the work which this College has done during the last twenty years, and is doing at the present moment; but I have read the reports made from time to time by your highly respected Principal, Mr. Beck, and I think that it is fairly established that good work on the educational side is being done in this College and School. But there is one point which I should not like to pass by without remark. It is to be found, I think, as well in the objects of the founders of the College as in the results which have been attained; and as to the latter point I rely not merely on College reports but on independent and outside testimony to which I know great weight can be attached. It was a distinct object of the founders of this College that they should send out their students, not only

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equipped with knowledge to enable them to pursue an honourable course in whatever profession in life they were called to pursue, but also that they should send them out as good, manly and loyal citizens of the State. Now, gentlemen, in the course of my perambulations before I entered this hall, I saw some of the apparatus by which that work is carried on—I mean the cricket fields—and since I have entered this hall I have had the pleasure of distributing to the students prizes which show great attainments in the cricket field and on the running path. I do not think I can be accused of any sinister object if I applaud this apparatus, because it is what we in England covet for all our sons. I venture just to say that I think Sir Syed Ahmed and his colleagues have done well in this matter, as well as from the educational point of view, in enlisting the services of Englishmen in the work of this College. I believe that in doing so they have done the best thing they could to realise their object and also have given a practical demonstration of the possibility, and the advantages of friendly co-operation between the East and the West.

Now, gentlemen, there is no moment at which a demonstration of this kind can come so gratefully to my mind as the present. During the last few months, and at the present moment, the Government of India has, most unwillingly, been forced into open conflict with the tribes who belong to your community, and there have not been wanting those who have alleged that there was a real and growing antagonism between British rule in India and its Mahomedan subjects.

These matters—the causes of frontier wars, and the causes, such as exist, of internal disquiet—are far too large for me to enter upon with any view to discussion on such an occasion as this; but I would only just like to say this, that I, for my part, have never believed that the Mahomedan of India would fail to recognise the

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benefits which he derives from the Government under which he lives, or the obligation of loyalty to the Sovereign in whose name that administration is carried on, and whose care for Her Mahomedan subjects is known throughout the world.

In the course of these unfortunate disturbances we have again seen what we often have seen before—the loyalty and gallantry of the Mahomedan subjects and soldiers of the Queen; and I am glad, here in this spot, on a more peaceful occasion, to recognise and to know that there is growing up in this College under peaceful circumstances the same spirit of loyalty and devotion which has been shown in the field. I am glad, I say, looking round upon the students of this College—for after all the future is for the young. Let everyone who goes out of this College remember that whatever his calling in life may be he carries in his hands the honour of the College. Remember that the ideal of an honest manly loyal citizen is open to everyone without distinction of merit or degree, and remember that in straining after that ideal you will do the best you can to realise the anticipations of those who founded this College and to repay the debt which you owe her for the benefits which she has conferred upon you.

Sir Syed Ahmed and Gentlemen,—You have been good enough in the conclusion of your address to say that you desire to found a scholarship in this College which shall bear my name. I can only say that I esteem it a very great honour that you do me in connecting my name with this honourable and useful Institution. There is one stipulation which I should like to make and that is that if, as I suppose is possible, the first examination for this scholarship takes place during next year—the last year of my term of office—I may be permitted to present a medal to the first holder of the Elgin Scholarship.

Address from the Municipal Committee of Allahabad.

I have one word more to say which is a word that is generally expected on occasions of this kind.

It is always found that the youthful members of the audience find it so great a task to attend ceremonies of this nature that they require a little additional relaxation. Bearing that in mind I have consulted my friend, the Principal, and he has authorised me to say that on Monday as well as on Saturday there will be a holiday in the College.

[After luncheon at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Beck, Their Excellencies left for Allahabad.]

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE OF
ALLAHABAD.

27th Novr. 1897. [Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin and Staff arrived at Allahabad on Saturday morning, the 27th November, and were received by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and all the principal Civil and Military officials of Allahabad, and a number of native gentlemen. The members of the Municipal Committee presented an address to His Excellency which after welcoming their Excellencies went on to refer to the recent famine. Owing, it was said, to the able administrative measures of Sir Antony MacDonnell, coupled with the efforts of his subordinate staff, the severity of this exceptional distress was combated with an intelligence and energy which precluded the possibility of failure. The Committee heartily congratulated His Excellency on the attainment of these results and expressed their cordial appreciation of the recognition which Her Majesty had accorded to the Lieutenant-Governor in raising him to the dignity of a G.C.S.I. Referring to the plague, the Committee while congratulating themselves that their city had hitherto been free from it, said that the local authorities had been fully alive to the necessity for the most thoughtful and energetic measures to guard against it, and these measures had so far successfully attained the desired end. No effort would, the Committee said, be wanting on their part to support the authorities loyally in giving effect to any necessary measures to guard against the appearance of the scourge amongst them.]

Address from the Municipal Committee of Allahabad.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Allahabad,—
I have to return you my best thanks for the address which you have just read, and to express my appreciation of the loyal sentiments that are therein contained. I can safely say that my visit to the capital of the North-Western Provinces has been a hope deferred. On more than one occasion every preparation had been made and I had to postpone it at the last moment ; and I have, of course, frequently passed within a few miles of your city. I remember very well the last occasion, because it is just about a year ago since I stopped at Jasra and took the opportunity of inspecting with my friend the Lieutenant-Governor one of those great works to which you have referred. I shall never forget the impression made upon my mind of the method and resource evidently there available for coping with a great emergency. Since that time, as you have justly said, your city has been the centre of a district where such scenes have been frequent, where the struggle has been most severe, but where, as I hope I may say, the victory has been now complete. I remember that when I attended the opening meeting of the great Famine Fund which brought out so striking a testimony of the sympathy of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the world,—I remember very well quoting the circumstances of your district as showing the great and sudden call that might be made upon the administration. Last spring, again, when I was journeying from Calcutta, there were some fears that the dread scourge of cholera of which you have spoken, was approaching this district. At once the system of works was altered and adapted to meet the altered circumstances. Indeed, I should say that this incessant watchfulness and readiness has been characteristic of the administration of the North-Western Provinces during this year. I do not wish, in the presence of my friend the Lieutenant-Governor, to say all that I

Address from the Municipal Committee of Allahabad.

think of his share in the matter. I will only join with you in congratulating him on the signal mark of Her Majesty's favour which he has so justly earned, and the decoration with which it will be my proud and pleasing duty to invest him during my sojourn in this city. But I know that it will be entirely consonant with his feelings, if I express here — and I feel I cannot do so too often — my admiration of the conduct of his officers one and all who, here in your midst, have borne the burden and heat of the day.

I feel very confident that the labours of those gentlemen, their incessant and unostentatious self-sacrifice, cannot but have made a mark on the minds of the people of this country which will not be readily effaced. And, gentlemen, if I say one word of acknowledgment for services connected with famine, but not wholly connected with this Province, I should like to mention the services of a gentleman, now Commissioner of your Division. The Government of India robbed the Lieutenant-Governor of a most efficient officer when we indented upon him for the services of Mr. Holderness, and all I can say from constant intercourse and weekly interviews is that I am sure that if the famine business of the Government of India has been efficiently transacted, it is largely due to the unfailing resource, judgment, and knowledge of Mr. Holderness.

Gentlemen, I am not very fond of speaking of myself, but I feel that perhaps I might be thought ungrateful if I did not recognise your reference to my share in the work of the years. All that I purpose to say is this, that at the outset I publicly promised my friends in charge of the various provinces that if they had any cause to seek my aid or assistance, it was absolutely at their disposal. It is extremely gratifying to me that I have received spontaneously from many of those gentlemen — and I now hear it repeated in the address which you have just read — assur-

Address from the Municipal Committee of Allahabad.

ances that that promise has been redeemed. Gentlemen, I think I may safely join in the congratulations which you have expressed on the fact that the clouds are now rolling away from the horizon. There is one piece of work which the Government of India still has to do and that is to make sure that the experience gained will not be forgotten. The famine of this year has been very widespread and the work in different provinces has been performed under different conditions. It is, therefore, a unique opportunity which we do not wish to let slip, and we propose shortly to institute an inquiry, not into the success or failure of the operations, for we maintain that their success has been amply established—not to put any one on his defence—but to collect and to collate for the benefit of those who have to deal with the next famine—may it be far distant—the experience of the present.

Gentlemen, I have spoken at some length on the calamity which you have seen; and I shall therefore say very little on another calamity, which is one more of those from which India is suffering, but which I trust you will never see. So far the battle against plague in the North-Western Provinces has been a battle of outposts, but if I may judge from what I heard yesterday from the Commissioner of Meerut, the danger at present is pretty well removed from this Province. That there will be no lack of watchfulness goes without saying. The method adopted at Khanki, the immediate segregation of the patients, and the evacuation of the infected quarters is, I think, undoubtedly the readiest, simplest, and most effective method of stamping out this dire disease. That has throughout been the view of the Government of India. Any one who has any knowledge of the social life of India cannot fail to recognise that there are difficulties; but I think that it says a good deal for the good sense of the people and for the local officers that in many places, as, for instance, in

Chapter of the Star of India and Indian Empire at Allahabad.

Khankal, these difficulties have been minimised and not exaggerated. At any rate, we look with confidence to the co-operation of the local authorities, and nothing can strengthen our hands more in taking the measures necessary for the preservation of life than the declaration to that effect and in favour of sanitary reform which you have made in your address to-day.

Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your welcome to this city.

CHAPTER OF THE STAR OF INDIA AND INDIAN
EMPIRE AT ALLAHABAD.

29th Novr. 1898. [On Monday morning, the 29th November, His Excellency the Viceroy, as Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, invested the Hon'ble Sir Antony Patrick MacDonnell, K.C.S.I., as a Knight Grand Commander of the Order and at the same time decorated Mr. Horace Frederick D'Oyly Moule as a Companion of the same Order, and Colonel Russell Richard Pulford, R.E., as a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire. The investiture was held at Government House, Allahabad, and there were present Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elisabeth Bruce and Lady Christian Bruce, the members of the two orders present in Allahabad, namely, Raja Amir Hossain of Mahmudabad, K.C.I.E., the Maharaja of Ajudia, Raja Jai Kishen Das, C.S.I., and Raja Jugmohan Singh, C.S.I., the Judges of the High Court in their State robes, together with a large number of private residents. His Excellency with his Staff entered the Durbar Hall in procession and proceeded to the *daïs*, the band playing the National Anthem, and the Guard of Honour presenting arms, while a royal salute of 31 guns was fired.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies of investiture His Excellency the Grand Master spoke as follows :—]

Sir Antony MacDonnell,—It will ever be a satisfaction to me that it has fallen to my lot to invest Your Honour, here in the capital City of your Provinces, with

Address from the Municipal Commission of Darjeeling.

the Insignia of the highest grade of the most Exalted Order of the Star of India, to which Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint you. In offering you my personal and most sincere congratulations, I think I shall give voice to the unanimous opinion of India when I say this distinguished mark of Her Majesty's favour is but a fitting acknowledgment of services which have done so much to maintain the high credit of Indian administrators, and which, for tens of thousands of Her Majesty's subjects, have converted a year which threatened to be one of misery and despair, or even of death, into one of renewed hope and confidence and returning prosperity. May Your Honour long enjoy your dignity in health and happiness.

Mr. Moule and Colonel Pulford,—I desire also to express my congratulations to you on this recognition by Her Majesty of your long and meritorious service.

[The Secretary having announced that this concluded the business of the Chapter, the procession was re-formed, and proceeded from the Durbar Hall.]

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION
OF DARJEELING.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin left Allahabad on the 2nd December, and after visiting the workshops of the East Indian Railway at Jamalpur *en route* arrived at Darjeeling on Saturday, the 4th December. On Monday the 6th idem His Excellency received a deputation from the Municipal Corporation of Darjeeling who presented him with an Address of welcome. The Address contained expressions of confidence in the wise and judicious guidance of His Excellency and the Government and the conviction that the trouble on the North-Western Frontier would be brought to a satisfactory and lasting termination. The other matters referred to in the Address are apparent from His Excellency's reply, which was as follows:—]

Gentlemen of the Municipal Commission of Darjeeling,—I have to thank you for the exceedingly hearty and warm welcome which you have given to Lady

Address from the Municipal Commission of Darjeeling.

Elgin and myself. I think that I shall be acting in the spirit of the address which you have presented to me, if I abstain from making any reference to affairs of State, such as sometimes finds a place on occasions of this kind; but I cannot pass by without a word of thanks, your appreciative reference to the labours of my colleagues and myself during the past year; and, sharing, as I do, the hope which you have expressed that the operations against the frontier tribes may be approaching their termination, I can only say that though in some respects the progress of those operations has from unavoidable causes been slower than we could have desired, I trust that they will continue to progress, if slowly at least surely, to the end which we all desire, namely, the establishment of peace.

Gentlemen,—My short stay at Darjeeling is the only remnant of plans with which difficulties of business and of health have interfered; and though at one time I feared that I might be compelled to abandon it altogether, in the end, to my great satisfaction it proved possible to carry it out. When we were coming up the hill yesterday, and the rain-clouds gathered in every direction, it required all the cheerful words which Mr. Greer has at his command to reassure us. I can only say that we have been abundantly repaid in the good fortune of this afternoon, by glorious views of snow-clad hills, bathed in unclouded sunshine.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the natural advantages of your beautiful station; and also on the fact that you are not prepared to rely alone on these natural advantages, but that you endeavour to bring to your aid all the resources of sanitary science, in order to make this place what you claim it to be, the Sanitarium of Bengal. I wish you all success in your labours, and trust that the result of them may be to ensure continued prosperity to Darjeeling.

Indian Penal Code Bill and Criminal Procedure Bill.

You have been so kind as to present to me a small and interesting weapon, and to ask me to carry it away with me as a memento of my visit. This I shall certainly do; but, apart from any material memento, Darjeeling itself will remain in our memories as one of the most striking sights that it is possible for any one who comes to India to see. Although our visit is all too short, our recollections of Darjeeling will not readily be effaced.

INDIAN PENAL CODE BILL AND CRIMINAL
PROCEDURE BILL.

[In moving to refer the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bills to a Select Committee in the Viceroy's Legislative Council on Tuesday, the 21st December, the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers announced important amendments on the sections relating to sedition. He explained that Government after careful consultation had decided, in view of recent events, to amend the general law relating to sedition and cognate offences so as to make it efficient for its purpose. They had selected this course in preference to the line urged upon them by many whose opinion was of great weight and who advised the re-enactment of a Press Law similar to the Vernacular Press Act of 1879. 21st Dec. 1897.]

Mr. Chalmers then proceeded to explain in detail the sections which it was proposed to amend, and in conclusion stated that the Government had no desire that either the Vernacular Press or the English Press should be subject to its license or control. But the Press, like everybody else, he said, must be subject to the law of the land. No man was bound to preach or write sedition, but if he did so it must be at his own peril.

After Mr. Chalmers had spoken, the Hon'bles Pandit Bishambar Nath and Babu Joy Gobind Law read speeches protesting against what they regarded as the undue haste with which the Bills were being pushed through.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT CLOSED THE DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS :—]

It is unnecessary for me to remind Hon'ble Members, who have been nominated for the Select Committee on this and on the preceding Bill, of the great importance of the work which they are undertaking. One of the Bills is

Indian Penal Code Bill and Criminal Procedure Bill.

of great length and detail, so great that it would have been difficult indeed for the Government to present it to this Council had they not been able to call in the assistance of the unrivalled experience of Sir Henry Prinsep, who has, as is well known, made the subject his study for many years. The revision of a Code can never be a light piece of work, but as my Hon'ble Colleague explained when he introduced this Bill, it must from time to time be undertaken, not from any intention of radically altering the law, but to remedy defects which have been proved to exist, and to incorporate the results of accumulated experience, and thereby to make the law of the land clear, easily understood, and easily applied. No one will deny that this is an object of supreme importance, not only to those whose duty it is to administer the law, but to the people at large whose lives are regulated by its provisions.

Hon'ble Members will find that the amendments now laid upon the table are governed by the same principle. Their necessity has been brought to light by recent events and by controversy on a special subject, but they themselves, as my Hon'ble Colleague has explained, are not directed against any special class or section of the community. They are designed to make the general law, which all must obey, efficient. I feel that I can add nothing to the admirably clear and precise explanation by my Hon'ble Friend of the scope and intention of these amendments. But I desire in a word to express my entire and cordial concurrence in what he has said of the reasons for rejecting the enactment of a Vernacular Press Act. Personally, I am most strongly of opinion that an Act of that nature is obnoxious in principle, uncertain in operation, and not necessary under present circumstances. It seems to me that it would be the natural impulse of any honourable mind, when men "disclaim all sympathy with writings which are calculated to create disaffection towards British rule" to believe, if possible, in their sincerity:

Indian Penal Code Bill and Criminal Procedure Bill.

and though I could wish that the general tone of the criticism we read in papers in India was not so often unduly coloured by prejudice, I for one am not disposed on that account to acquiesce in any general imputation of disloyalty. At all events, I associate myself absolutely with the reply lately given to an appeal in the words I have just quoted by the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Stevens, who for the last six months has administered the Government of Bengal in a manner that has elicited the applause of the entire community, European and Native. Mr. Stevens welcomed the co-operation of the Press in securing fair and honest criticism, of which, as my Hon'ble Colleague has said, we deny the right to no one, but at the same time pointed out that the Government cannot divest itself of its responsibility in this matter any more than in any other of which the law takes cognisance. I, too, welcome co-operation, while recognising my responsibility. It must never be forgotten that in interposing to prevent sedition we act not for the protection of our personal interests—with my Hon'ble Friend I think that if that was all we might willingly stand the buffets—but on behalf of the public, whose interests suffer if the passions of the ignorant are excited, and the peace of the country is imperilled; a danger none the less present, though the action to be guarded against be the action of a comparatively small number of individuals out of touch with the sentiments which animate their fellows.

I have more than once on behalf of the Government of India declared that its aim was an administration of the law, sympathetic and impartial, but at the same time prompt and firm. It is because in my judgment these amendments will enable us to perform our duty more satisfactorily in both of these directions that I commend them to the Council.

With regard to the observations which have been made by the two Hon'ble Members who have just spoken, I

Indian Penal Code Bill and Criminal Procedure Bill.

should like, in the first place, to point out to the Hon'ble Babu Joy Gobind Law that he is not correct in saying that the ordinary procedure in this matter has not been observed. The Bill for the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code was introduced on the 14th October. It was then at once sent in the ordinary course to Local Governments for opinion and for publication, and it is from the Local Governments, as has always been the practice, that such public bodies as it is necessary to consult, should receive copies of the measures introduced by the Government. As regards the general public, the Bill was, immediately after its introduction, published in the *Gazette of India*, and was therefore open to every individual who could read. At the same time we have called this early meeting of Council in order that we might, as soon as possible, appoint the Committees, and bring before the notice of the Council the fact that these Bills were to be proceeded with. The intention is that the Committees should not meet till after the 1st January, on which date all the opinions are due from the Local Governments and others. The proceedings of the Committees will no doubt consume a considerable time, and the Government will give every facility to any public body or individual who has suggestions to make to lay those suggestions before the Committees and the Council for their consideration. But I have to say very distinctly on behalf of the Government of India that this measure which has been under consideration for many years, to which, as I have said, my Hon'ble Friend, Sir Henry Prinsep, has specially devoted a large portion of his time, and which is now brought forward in the ordinary course for the consideration of the Council—I say that it is the deliberate intention of the Government of India to ask this Council, before the termination of this Session, for their judgment on this measure.

INVESTITURE OF THE ORDERS OF THE STAR OF INDIA AND THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

[On Thursday night, the 13th January, His Excellency the Viceroy held an investiture of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire. The ceremony took place in a large shamiana pitched in the grounds of Government House and was a very brilliant one, some 1,600 or 1,700 persons being present. 13th Jan. 1898.]

In the Star of India Chapter the Viceroy invested the Maharaja of Rewah and the Commander-in-Chief with the G. C. S. I. ; Mr. Charles James Lyall, Mr. William John Cunningham, Major-General Gerard, Mr. Richard Udny, Colonel H. Melliss, and the Honourable Mr. Arthur Charles Trevor with the K.C.S.I. ; and decorated Mr. John Molesworth Macpherson, the Honourable Mr. Charles Walter Bolton, Surgeon-Major-General J. Cleghorn, Colonel T. Gracey, Colonel J. A. Miley, Mr. Henry Babington Smith, Mr. Robert Steel, Sardar Bahadur Kashi Rao Sarve, the Honourable Mr. Michael Finucane, Mr. James Austin Bourdillon, and Mr. Thomas William Holderness with the Badge of the Third Class of the Order.

At the second ceremony the Grand Master invested the Maharaja of Durbhanga and the Maharaja of Benares with the G.C.I.E. ; and Rear-Admiral Sir John Hext, Colonel T.H. Holdich, and Sir Francis Maclean with the K.C.I.E. ; and decorated the Honourable Mr. Ananda Charlu, Colonel Algernon Durand, Mr. Charles Henry Reynolds, Lieutenant-Colonel Duff, the Reverend John Husband, Dr. Haffkine, Dr. Augustus Hoernle, Mr. Rastamji Dhanjibai Mehta, Resaldar-Major Bahauddin Khan, the Honourable Sahibzada Muhammad Bukhtiyar Shah, and Mr. Duncan James Macpherson with the Badge of the Third Class of the Order.

At the close of the ceremony, His Excellency the Viceroy addressed the assembly as follows :—]

The year which has just closed has been for us in a special manner one both of joy and sorrow ; joy in the great event of our Sovereign's reign which we have celebrated, sorrow in respect of the many and grievous troubles which have come upon the Empire of India. It is not inappropriate that under these circumstances the list is long of those whose efforts in her service Her Majesty

Investiture of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire.

has been pleased to recognise. This fact makes it impossible for me to individualise, or to undertake the pleasing task of addressing to each one of you, gentlemen, a few words of congratulation. Yet I do not like to dismiss you in silence, and there is one characteristic of this particular occasion which I think will come home to all.

Amid all the distractions of this eventful year we have known that our Sovereign has never for a moment lost sight of us and of our troubles. I have again and again had the honour of receiving messages—which I have done my best to convey to those for whom they were intended—messages of personal sympathy alike to the ryot suffering from want, the gallant soldier who had shed his blood in defence of the Empire, and the victims of great convulsions of nature or of epidemic disease.

But there are two messages which appear to me peculiarly appropriate for this meeting of the Imperial Orders. Her Majesty has charged me to make known to the Princes and Chiefs of her Indian Empire her deep sense of the loyalty and devotion with which they have tendered the services of their troops and the resources of their States in the time of emergency. I have had no previous opportunity of making known in public Her Majesty's commands ; but it gives me special pleasure to do so now in the presence of a Chief who not for the first time has shown his readiness at a moment's notice to give the Government most valuable assistance. The Maharaja Sindhia will forgive me if I say a word of an incident which perhaps attracted less public attention than it deserved. Public spirit we expect from His Highness, and, knowing his energy, we were not surprised to find him accompanying his men to the banks of the Indus, where their work was to commence ; but I can never forget how then, without a word of remonstrance, the Maharaja turned his back on the military operations, in which it was the dearest wish

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of his heart to share, to resume his place in that battle from which he has now, I trust, emerged triumphant, the battle with scarcity, in which my distinguished friends the Maharajas of Rewah, Benares, and Darbhanga have nobly shared and have proved themselves the champions and protectors of their people, the battle which has called forth so notable a display of official and unofficial effort and charity, in the forefront of which we welcome to-day Sir Charles Lyall and Sir Francis Maclean.

And if Her Majesty has throughout sympathised with us, she has also felt deeply the sympathy which, in all loyalty and respect, we have offered. I desire to give this message from the last letter I had the honour to receive, in Her Majesty's own words: "The Queen-Empress wishes to say how much she is touched and gratified by the immense number of very loyal and kind addresses sent by the Princes and people of India in such beautiful cases and caskets, and she would wish the Viceroy to state openly what she has said above."

You, gentlemen, to whom it has been my privilege to hand the outward tokens of Royal favour will rejoice, I think, in the consciousness that they come from a Sovereign whose devotion to the people of India is as deep and heart-felt as your own; and I now offer you all my personal and most sincere congratulations.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE LADY DUFFERIN VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

14th Jan. 1898.

[The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital in Amherst Street, Calcutta, was performed by Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin on the afternoon of Friday, the 14th January, in the presence of a large gathering of the principal residents of Calcutta, official, non-official, and native. An address was read giving a history of the hospital, and in inviting Her Excellency to lay the foundation-stone, the Lieutenant-Governor thanked Her Excellency on behalf of the Bengal Committee for consenting to lay the stone and the Viceroy for presiding. The Maharaja of Darbhanga presented the address to Lady Elgin in a casket on behalf of the Maharani, and a gold trowel was also presented to Her Excellency on behalf of the Nawab Begum of Murshidabad.

After the stone had been duly laid the Viceroy addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The duty which I have to perform this evening is to return thanks on behalf of Her Excellency for the reception which you have accorded to her. I believe that my predecessor, Lord Dufferin, on a like occasion gently protested that this duty would be more suitably performed by his wife herself. If I do not re-echo that sentiment it is not from any doubt of Lady Elgin's capacity, but because I rejoice to be present on this occasion, to which I know she has long looked forward. I know that one of the first things after our arrival in Calcutta, now nearly four years ago, to which her attention was drawn in her capacity of Lady President of the Dufferin Fund, was the position of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital in Calcutta, and the necessity of its removal. Lady Elgin, therefore, is extremely gratified that it has fallen to her to lay this stone of the new hospital on this occasion. There is only one incident this afternoon for which she feels a sincere regret, and that is the

Laying the Foundation-Stone of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital.

absence of Lady Mackenzie, on whom, as Lady President of the Bengal Branch, this duty might suitably have devolved. I am sure we shall all join in the hope that the cause of her absence will be speedily removed, and that we shall see her in restored health resuming her many interests in Calcutta, and especially her interest in the work of the Dufferin Fund.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think I need not detain you on what I may call the business side of this matter. The causes which have led to the removal of the hospital from its original site are well known, and have been concisely set forth in the address which has been read this afternoon. There is only one remark which it occurs to me to make. Let no one suppose that this incident is any sign of a failure of the work of that great movement which bears Lady Dufferin's name. On the contrary, I should be disposed to say that it is a sign of the strength of that movement, and of its rightful claim to a place among the recognised and permanent institutions of this country. It is, I think, a sign of vitality and continued interest that here in Calcutta, we have not only been able to raise the funds necessary for the erection of the original hospital, but that when, owing to circumstances to which all must be liable who build in crowded cities, that hospital was no longer capable of being used to the best advantage, it has been possible to make arrangements for the erection of a new hospital which will give to that work opportunities for its full development. We have heard that for the position in which we stand to-day we owe much to the liberality of many friends, and especially to that of the owner of this site, Babu Anath Nath Mullick. I trust that others will be ready to come forward, and that the funds necessary will be forthcoming in order that this hospital, which will continue to bear the name of its first foundress, and, by her gracious permission, of the Queen-Empress, will be assured in the future of a permanent success.

Indian Penal Code Amendment Bill.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have only again to thank you on behalf of Lady Elgin for the manner in which you have received her, and particularly to return her thanks to the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and to the Nawab Begum of Murshidabad, for the interesting mementoes which they have given her on this occasion.

INDIAN PENAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

18th Feb. 1898. [At the meeting of the Legislative Council, which assembled on Friday, the 18th February, the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code was taken into consideration and the Bill was subsequently passed into law. The debate lasted for about eight hours, as, in addition to the discussion of the Select Committee's report, there were 32 amendments to be dealt with. The motion that the Select Committee's report be taken into consideration was carried by a large majority of the Council. On the motion that the Bill be passed into law His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

Before this Bill passes, there is one point to which I desire very briefly to refer.

When I spoke in this Council in December, I submitted the proposition that in this legislation the Government hoped to attain an object which the vast majority of their fellow-subjects would consider a desirable object. I have been immensely strengthened in that belief by what has happened since then. Our proposals have met with a considerable amount of criticisms—some reasonable, some unreasonable, some hostile, and a few friendly criticisms. But throughout the whole, I think I may say outside as well as inside this Chamber, there has run the admission that the British Government must be maintained, and any attempts to subvert it must be prevented. That has been throughout our sole object; and I am glad to find myself in accord with so many of our severest critics. That

Indian Penal Code Amendment Bill.

there is a difference between us I admit; but what is the nature of that difference? I have paid careful attention to what has been said and written on this subject; and it seems to me that it all turns on a difference of opinion as to the precise meaning of certain expressions, or even words. Let any one study the proceedings in this Council to-day and he will find this is the essence of the discussions in which we have been engaged for a good eight hours. Now the Government cannot be accused of having taken up an impracticable and domineering attitude even in the matter of wording. They have willingly accepted any modifications which have been proposed, either in the Select Committee, or here in Council, wherever they could do so consistently with the attainment of their purpose, and have listened, I am sure every one will admit, with patience to all representations made to them. But, after all, with the Government must remain the responsibility for the proper framing of the law. They have the right and they have the power of inviting, and they have invited, the most capable men, both in India and in England, to advise them, and they cannot wantonly, or with a light heart, reject, even in the matter of drafting, the advice so received. Perhaps I ought not to say in the presence of my Hon'ble Colleague 'even in the matter of drafting,' for I know that he maintains, and I fully agree with him, that drafting is a most important subject, and that is the reason why we have felt ourselves obliged beyond a certain point to resist alteration in the form of our proposals.

We are all, as I have said, at one in the desire to put down sedition which is aimed against the Government of the Queen-Empress. We differ not so much as to the precise form of the powers to be taken, or the means to be employed, as to the language in which the law is to be expressed.

All that we, the Government, can say is, that we desire the powers necessary to put down sedition. We ask for

Convocation of the Calcutta University.

nothing more, but we can be satisfied with nothing less. We do not desire to have a law which bears oppressively on one particular section of the community. Only partial justice is done to us when it is said that we have abstained from proposing an enactment aimed at the Vernacular Press, because as a matter of fact our legislation is not a Press Act at all. It lays down certain rules of conduct by observing which any member of the community can keep within the law, rules which are applicable to all and show favour to none.

I cannot but hope that when these things are calmly and dispassionately considered—on the one hand, the supreme and admitted importance of the object; on the other, the necessity that the Government should accept the full responsibility for the form of the law in a matter of this kind,—that the Bill which is now about to pass will be given a fair trial, and that some of the feelings which I think have been unduly excited may subside.

CONVOCATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

19th Feb. 1898.

[The annual Convocation of the Calcutta University, for the purpose of conferring Degrees, was held in the Senate House of the University on Saturday afternoon, the 19th February 1898, at 4 P.M. His Excellency the Viceroy, as Chancellor of the University, presided, and was received at the entrance Hall by the Vice-Chancellor (Mr. Justice Trevelyan) and the Fellows and Members of the Senate, and conducted to the dais. Sir F. Maclean (Chief Justice of Bengal) was seated on His Excellency's right, the Vice-Chancellor being on his left. The Hall was thronged with students and many visitors were present. After the candidates had been presented with their degrees the Chancellor, who on rising was received with applause, spoke as follows:—]

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—My first and principal duty this afternoon is to congratulate those on whom the University has just conferred its degrees. I am afraid that I must now rank among those who look back to their University days through a long

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vista of years ; but I can assure you that you have my active sympathy in the perils which so many of you have just surmounted. Memory still recalls the dreadful ordeal of the pass, and the engrossing pre-occupation of the Honours examination, and I think that in no after-life can one altogether forget the awe-inspiring presence of the examiner, the sigh of relief with which the interview with him is terminated, and the manner in which the judgment we formed of him varied considerably as his judgment of our performances coincided with or differed from our own. But I think there is one respect in which we, who look back, know perhaps better than you who are in the thick of it. I think perhaps we appreciate more even than you could do the supreme importance and the extreme value of the opportunities of that period of his life which a young man spends at the University. It is then that the book of life is unfolded for him, before he is called upon in all respects to undertake its responsibility. I can offer no better wish to those young men and young ladies on whom the University has to-day conferred a degree than that they may have made good use of those opportunities, and that they may recognise that the honour conferred upon them carries with it a corresponding obligation. The degree of the University which you have gained is a badge that the honour of the University is entrusted to your hands ; and I can assure you that it is no empty form in which we adjure you that "in your life and conversation you should show yourselves worthy of the same."

Mr. Vice-Chancellor,—I should like to offer my personal congratulations to two gentlemen on whom the University has conferred its degrees. Last year I had the pleasure to admit to the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws Sir Alfred Croft, in recognition of the eminent services to education which he had rendered. It was a great pleasure to me when I found that the gentleman who was designated for a similar distinction this year was a gentleman of Bengal.

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I think that the University has chosen a very proper occasion for conferring upon Dr. Sircar the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of his eminent services in the cause of scientific enquiry. As you are aware, India has just been visited by a large number of gentlemen of high distinction in science, whom I am sure the University would have been proud to welcome here to-day, had that been possible. It so happened that in talking to one of the most distinguished of them—Sir Norman Lockyer—the other day, he pointed out to me the very great advantages which obtain in India for an observer of Astronomical Science. It has occurred to me since that the events of the past year may show that there are other fields of scientific enquiry in which we in India have peculiar opportunities. Certainly during the last year we have been able to observe convulsions of nature on a scale which is almost without parallel, and we know that millions of our fellow-subjects have been suffering from privation from causes of which at least we may say that the investigator has much yet to discover and to determine. I congratulate, therefore, the University, as well as Dr. Sircar, on the occasion which has been selected for conferring upon him the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws. And, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I should not like to pass on without also a word of personal congratulation to one other gentleman—Saratchandra Bandyopadhyay—who has won for himself in the arduous examination which I believe precedes that Degree, the Degree of Doctor of Laws; and if I venture to do so, I should like to include in that congratulation his distinguished father. I am sure that it will be gratifying to every member of the University that the son of a former Vice-Chancellor has shown himself capable of following in the footsteps of his father, and we should all wish for him an equally honourable and distinguished career.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—My duty now is to call upon the Vice-Chancellor to address you. I have reason to

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believe that he will be able to point to a peaceful and prosperous year for the University, and I am sure we shall all admit that if that is so, there is no one to whom it is more justly due than to the Vice-Chancellor himself. Mr. Justice Trevelyan is about to seek that rest to which his long and arduous service in India entitles him, and I know that I can in your name assure him that he will carry with him from none of his friends more sincere good-wishes for his health and prosperity than from the members of this University. And, gentlemen, I have to say for myself also a word of farewell. I have now reached the period which must come to every one who holds my office when he begins to do things for the last time. It so happens—and I have always thought that it was a fortunate coincidence—that the first public meeting which I attended in Calcutta was the Convocation of the Calcutta University. It is natural, therefore, that this meeting of the Calcutta University should be the first in which this idea is present to my mind. I have only to thank the members of this University for the kindness with which they have ever received me. I fear that I must confess that I have little to show in the way of return for all that kindness; but this, at any rate, I will ask you to believe, that whether here or far away, I shall ever retain the warmest interest in all that can lead to the prosperity and welfare of the University of Calcutta, of which I have had the honour to be Chancellor.

UNVEILING LORD ROBERTS' STATUE.

and March 1898. [At 5-30 P.M., on Wednesday, the 2nd March, His Excellency the Viceroy unveiled the statue of Field Marshal Lord Roberts, which stands on the Secretary's walk in the Maidan, Calcutta. All the available troops in the garrison at Fort William, Alipur, Dum-Dum, and Barrackpore, together with the various Volunteer Corps, paraded for the ceremony, under the command of General Wodehouse. They were drawn up in a hollow square in the rear of the statue, the Gloucestershire and the Royal West Kent Regiments facing each other, while the former regiment furnished a guard-of-honour, with all regimental bands and drums massed near at hand. There was an immense concourse of spectators.

The Viceroy, accompanied by Lady Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, and His Excellency's Personal Staff, arrived under a full escort of the Body-guard, and was received by Sir Patrick Playfair, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Roberts' Memorial Fund. The usual honours were paid, and the Viceregal party proceeded to the dais on which was the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Lady White, the Chief Justice and Lady Maclean, the Bishop of Calcutta, the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and the Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna.

Sir Patrick Playfair, in making his report on behalf of the Executive Committee, and asking the Viceroy to unveil the statue, explained that the list of subscriptions, which amounted to Rs2,200, included not only non-officials representing the merchants, tradesmen, and members of the legal and medical professions, but also the Army, the Civil Service, the Maharajas, Chiefs and Native gentlemen of India. With this sum the Committee had met the cost of the statue and pedestal, (£3,500,) and its carriage to India, and had defrayed the cost of the farewell entertainment given to Lord Roberts in the Calcutta Town Hall. The design and construction of the statue had been intrusted to Mr. Harry Bates, A.R.A., the bronze out of which the statue was cast having been obtained from old guns provided by Sir E. Collen and General Walker, R.A. Sir Patrick Playfair concluded by mentioning the names of other gentlemen to whom acknowledgments were due and requesting the Viceroy to unveil the statue.

His Excellency the Viceroy then addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have first to

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offer my best acknowledgments to Sir Patrick Playfair and his Committee for allotting to me a share in the proceedings of to-day. There are good reasons why they should not have done so. The chief part in these proceedings would, I think, have naturally fallen to a soldier and to a personal friend of Lord Roberts. I am not a soldier, and unfortunately I have not the privilege of Lord Roberts' acquaintance, and had it been possible, I confess I should have preferred to stand aside in favour of one who could have spoken to you in both capacities—the gallant comrade in arms who succeeded Lord Roberts in the distinguished office of Commander-in-Chief in India, and of whose presence we are deprived to-day by a cruel and ill-timed accident. But I undertake this duty, in the first place because you have asked me to do so, and in the second place because, in my judgment, to be given a place among the statues that adorn the historic Maidan of Calcutta is an honour that should not be bestowed without discrimination, and one that, when fairly earned, merits the full and open recognition of those who are entrusted with the Government of the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Out-of-doors oratory imposes limitations which would render my task an arduous one indeed, were it necessary for me to examine in detail the reasons which have seemed to justify the erection of this statue. But I do not think any one will expect this of me. You will find inscribed on the base of the statue, which it is now my duty to unveil, names that will recall scenes and exploits the memory of which is still green; and if you ask for the story of them, I can give you what is better far than any words of mine, for I can refer you to the narrative, so graphic and yet so modest, of that delightful book "Forty One Years in India." No doubt it would be easy to introduce into the description words which no man can use of himself; but, if I mistake not, I should be doing

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what Lord Roberts himself would wish if I leave his case as he himself has stated it. In my opinion it is ample to justify our action to-day. We may without hesitation leave behind us as we go this new inmate of the Temple of Fame, as I think I may fitly designate the Maidan in which we stand. Look around on the men who are represented there. The great qualities which have distinguished them have been many and various. As we all know, popular favour is a vain and fleeting thing ; but there is a quality in some men of which the outcome is no mere passing popularity, but something broader and higher altogether—the confidence which, born of sympathy and deepening into devotion, finds its origin in the smaller incidents of life, but becomes a potent instrument in the hands of a real leader, or ruler of men. I need scarcely remind you how our Queen-Empress has possessed and has used this power. And I believe that in it you may find one of the secrets of the success of Lord Roberts. I believe that it is true of him pre-eminently among the men of his day and generation, that the entire Army of India, British and Native, trusted him as a friend who honestly endeavoured to enter into their feelings and studied their welfare in peace as in war, in small things as in great ; and I believe I shall truly represent Lord Roberts himself if I ask you as you gaze upon this monument to identify them with him, and never to forget in the General the Army he has loved and led and by whose devotion and loyalty his triumphs have been achieved.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is now my duty to disclose to your view what I believe from all accounts will be found to be one of the finest works of art yet seen in Calcutta ; and in your name, and in presence of this vast assemblage, I greet it as the monument of one who is well worthy to take his place among the men who have built up and defended this Empire of India, and I charge our successors

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in this place to guard and preserve it while that Empire itself shall endure.

[His Excellency then unveiled the statue amid the cheers of the assembly. A salute of 17 guns was fired from the ramparts of Fort William and the troops presented arms. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., then proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency and the proceedings terminated.]

COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.

[The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Countess of 22nd Mar. 1898. Dufferin Fund was held in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday afternoon, the 22nd March, His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elziabeth Bruce, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (Sir Alexander Mackenzie), the Maharaja of Darbhanga, Wala Kadr Saiyid Hussain Ali Mirza of Murshidabad, and a number of other ladies and gentlemen occupied seats on the dais. Mr. J. P. Hewett presented the Annual Report and moved its adoption, the motion being seconded by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. The Lieutenant-Governor moved a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding, the motion being seconded by Wala Kadr Saiyid Hussain Ali Mirza of Murshidabad. His Excellency then addressed the meeting as follows :—]

Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—In addressing the Association on behalf of the Lady President, I am glad that it is once more in my power to congratulate you on the success of the past year. It is especially satisfactory for many reasons, but it is satisfactory for two special reasons, somewhat diverse in character. I think it would have been a great disappointment to all of us if it had not been possible for us to read of progress in the work of this Association in the Jubilee year of the Queen-Empress, its Patron: and if it is satisfactory that we have avoided that misfortune it is all the more so because we know that the Jubilee year has in India been a year of many calamities, and of those calamities some have

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affected our work. No one who has any knowledge of the suspicions which beset the introduction of hospital work among the women of India could be surprised if the occurrence of an epidemic like plague had caused some recrudescence of feelings which we in this Association have laboriously and patiently endeavoured to allay. The Report shows that this has been the case in many parts of the country, where the disease, or the fear of the disease, has chiefly prevailed; but the Report also shows that as a rule the confidence of the people has soon been restored. It is, I think, a very encouraging remark which I find quoted from the Report of the North-Western Provinces Committee, where it is stated that coincident with the decrease of out-patients—a decrease which diminished the total number of the patients from the whole of the Provinces—there was an increase in the in-patients treated. I quite agree that it would be difficult to find a more striking instance of the progress the Association is making. I do not wish to pass from the question of the prejudice which exists, or may have existed, without once more expressing my sympathy with the endeavour which the Association has, I think, always set before it, to make special provision for the treatment of *parda-nashin* women. I have heard with interest the remarks which the Nawab Wala Kadr has made on that subject, and I am pleased to see that the Committee think themselves justified in saying that progress is being made in this direction also. It is a somewhat striking fact when we find that in one State—the State of Ulwar—no less than 1,632 *parda-nashin* patients were treated in the hospital, in addition to 1,850 who were treated in their own houses.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—I have more than once on these occasions spoken of the new buildings—the outward and visible sign as I might say of our progress—which have been either commenced or completed in the course of the year. It would take too long if I went through them

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separately, and I will therefore refer you to the Report for the details which you will there find, and which will show, I think, that there is no diminution in the interest and the benevolence which the public or individuals have shown as compared with previous years. The foundation of the hospital which His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir is about to erect is, I think, worthy of notice; and Lady Elgin welcomes specially the completion of that excellent hospital at Karachi of which the photograph will be found in the Report, and of which she laid the foundation-stone in 1894. She felt keenly the kindness of Lord Sandhurst, who gave to the institution the great support of his presence and his address at its opening ceremony in the midst of engrossing anxieties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have already referred to the fact that plague has crossed our path. It has crossed our path also in another and somewhat important respect. There has suddenly arisen in India a demand for Lady Doctors to take part in those inspections and other operations regarding plague of which we have heard so much. I must confess to feeling that it was perhaps a little hard upon the officials of the Countess of Dufferin Fund. However well endowed and supported an Association may be, it cannot of course compete with the long purse of the Government. However, I hope that we may be assured that no serious, or at any rate no permanent harm has been done to our work, while we may congratulate ourselves that we have done good service to the Government which I hope will not be forgotten. As Mr. Hewett has reminded us, the medical training of women was from the first a purpose of this Association, and I think it cannot be denied that, had it not been for the stimulus in that direction which the Association has given, the Government would have experienced very much greater difficulty in finding properly qualified women for its work during the past year; and may we not hope that this will in the

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end react in our favour, because the experience of the last year must go to show that opportunities and openings occur for women who will undertake a course of medical training and education, and therefore the result may possibly be that we shall have in the future a greater abundance of those Lady Doctors who are of so great advantage to this Association and to the women of India?

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—One of my chief duties, if not my chief duty on this occasion, is to convey the thanks of the Lady President to those who have assisted her in the work of this Association during the past year. The previous speakers have mentioned the circumstances which would make it reasonable enough that I should take a more comprehensive view of the thanks which I have to return on this occasion. They have alluded to the fact that I may be addressing you for the last time; but I make that observation with some hesitation, because it so happens that it has brought upon me already both reproof and temptation. A few weeks ago, in addressing the Convocation of the University of Calcutta, I ventured to assert that the Convocation was the first public meeting which I had addressed in Calcutta, and that the meeting I was then addressing was the first of those at which I should be present for the last time. I was at once severely taken to task by your Honorary Secretary. He asked me in tones more of sorrow than of anger if I could possibly have forgotten that the first public meeting which I addressed in Calcutta was the Annual Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin Fund, and he went on to heap coals of fire upon my head, because he said, "if you will promise me that you will remain in Calcutta till the end of January, I will undertake that you shall address the Countess of Dufferin Fund meeting for the sixth time." I am sorry to say I must resist the temptation. I have thought it right to represent to the Secretary of State that, although owing to circumstances and the kindness of my predeces-

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sor, I took upon me my office at the end of January, it is in the public interest that a more convenient season should be selected for the change in the office of Viceroy, and I have therefore every expectation that with the permission of Her Majesty, I shall make over charge to my successor in the early days of December before the Calcutta season really opens. Under these circumstances you will easily see that this meeting has a great and absorbing interest both to Lady Elgin and myself. It is no small thing to have been privileged during nearly four years to take a share in the management of this noble charity, to have watched its progress, to have rejoiced in its development—a development so great that, as you will find from the figures given you in this Report, the patients who in 1894 numbered 894,000, in 1897 numbered no less than 1,377,000, an increase of 50 per cent., which I think must be satisfactory to all. All that I can say is that if Lady Elgin has been able to do anything for the work of this Association, it has indeed been a labour of love; but it is by her special desire that I reiterate that it is to her co-adjutors that the credit is due—to the Committees, the Central Committee, the Provincial Committees, the Local Committees, consisting of men—many of them busy men—who ungrudgingly sacrifice their leisure; to the Chiefs and Native ladies and gentlemen on whose co-operation we set great store; to the Civil Surgeons whose advice and counsel is most valuable; not least to the ladies on whose devotion to their duty, often in great isolation, not infrequently in great need of sympathy, the practical work of this Association must depend.

But, above all, Lady Elgin desires me to say that no one who has not seen it can sufficiently realise how much has been done during these four years for this Association by its Honorary Secretary. Dr. Franklin has made his office no by-play, but an office—I was almost going to say a department—to which he has devoted himself with an

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assiduity which no one, even if entrusted with a post of high profit and emolument, could excel. I am desired by Lady Elgin not only to express her thanks for much personal assistance, but to bear her testimony, which I am in a position myself to endorse, to the great public services he has rendered by the able manner in which he has conducted the work of the Central Committee and the thorough way in which he has thrown himself into the whole spirit of this movement. And, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, it is with peculiar gratification that I have to tell you that this morning I received a telegram which informs me that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has been pleased to approve of a recommendation from the Government of India, in which they stated, amongst other things, those services to which I have referred, and has approved of the appointment of Dr. Franklin as one of the Honorary Surgeons to Her Majesty. I venture to think that we shall all in congratulating our Honorary Secretary consider this appointment not only as an appropriate mark of Her Majesty's approval, but also as one more proof of the interest which Her Majesty takes in the work of providing medical aid for the women of India which it is the object of this Association to secure.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must not detain you too long, and I will therefore only ask you to believe that I shall often look back to these meetings at which it has been possible for me to do what little I could to assist in the great work in which my wife has striven to follow in the footsteps of the noble Lady to whom it owes its origin. As Mr. Hewett has pointed out, it is of the nature of things in India that charitable institutions, like other institutions, and like Government itself, cannot count upon one individual, or even one set of individuals, but must rely upon a constant succession of willing workers. I do not forget that this Association can always look with certainty to the co-operation and the counsel and advice

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of friends like the Maharaja of Darbhanga and the Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore; but those of us who come from afar must be content to do the work of our own day, and we must look without compunction on our place being filled by others. Of happy memories no one can rob us, and I venture to predict that of the memories which Lady Elgin will carry away with her from India, there will be none that will be nearer her heart or more full of interest and of loving sympathy than those of her work for the Dufferin Fund.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

[The Financial Statement for 1898-99 was read by the Hon'ble Sir 28th Mar. 1898. James Westland in the Legislative Council, on Monday, the 21st March 1898, and was discussed on the following Monday, the 28th. In closing the discussion, which lasted for some hours, His Excellency the President spoke as follows:—]

I think my Hon'ble Colleague has reason to be well satisfied with the manner in which this, his sixth Financial Statement, has been received by Council. It is one which is typical of the experience of the Hon'ble Member since he assumed his present office. Storm and fair weather find their place in it; and he is to be congratulated that the latter predominates at the close. The Hon'ble Member's skill in the management of his Department is known to all, and as the last survivor of the Government on whose behalf he introduced the Budget of 1894, I can testify, as no one else here can, to the manner in which the troubles of these troublous years have been met by him. My Hon'ble Friend, I know, neither needs nor desires any eulogy from me, but I cannot let this occasion pass without putting on record the feeling which I, in common, I am sure, with all my colleagues, have entertained, that no matter how unexpected the emergency, how serious the

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call, we could trust implicitly not only to his power of resource and mastery of his subject, but to his determination to subordinate every other consideration to the necessities of the Empire. It is no light thing for a Finance Minister who has begun to entertain the hopes which the prospect of a big surplus must inspire in a Finance Minister's breast, to find his expectation disappointed and his surplus scattered to the winds by causes altogether beyond his own control. But no word of complaint has ever come from my Hon'ble Friend. He has faced the altered conditions with the same cheerful persistence as before, and he has never failed us.

I make these remarks out of consideration, not only of what is contained in my Hon'ble Friend's Budget Statement, but also of what it has been attacked for not containing. The Hon'ble Mr. Arthur has complained on behalf of those whom he represents, because they are not put in possession of the details of any scheme which we may have in contemplation for the establishment of a gold standard. Now, as I have said, the Hon'ble Sir James Westland is a man of prompt action, and he possesses the full confidence of the Government to which he belongs. If, then, this had been a case in which the question was one for the Government of India alone, it might perhaps be asked why should you not proceed? But let Hon'ble Members turn their thoughts back a few short months to the mission of the American Deputation to Europe, and they will recognise that this is a case in which it would be easy enough to stir the embers of controversy, and where the utmost circumspection is necessary. The months that have intervened have been, for all Departments of the Government of India, full of work of the most engrossing character, not least for the Financial Department, which has to find the sinews of war, and I think the record of what notwithstanding has been done in connection with this subject is one of which the Hon'ble Member need not be ashamed. The Despatch

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dealing with the American proposals itself marked an immense step in advance, and it is one that the Hon'ble Mr. Arthur has on behalf of his constituents heartily approved. The Despatch which we have now sent enters into a subject of so much complexity that I do not see how it can be denied that it is reasonable that we should desire, and the Secretary of State should desire, to have the propositions put forward tested by experts. Nowhere in the world can that enquiry be so efficiently made as it can in London, and nowhere so appropriately, for I maintain that this is essentially an Imperial question in the widest sense of the term. At the same time, I fully agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Arthur that the enquiry should not be one made by partisans, and I fully believe that provision will be made for the representation of Indian interests, both in the composition of the body to which our proposals will be referred, and among the witnesses whom that body will examine. I believe it is the intention of the Secretary of State to publish our Despatch as soon as the Committee is appointed; so that there will be ample opportunity for all those concerned to consider and criticise our proposals. I can entirely appreciate the anxiety felt by the commercial community here that something should be done to avert the inconveniences and dangers that have attended the conditions of the money market during the last two years, but remember that a step that was premature, or in the wrong direction would probably bring about still graver disasters. That the Government of India and the Secretary of State should make every effort to arrive at a solution of these difficulties as speedily as possible I entirely accept. That they should be urged to proceed at a more rapid rate than they consider prudent, or without the most competent advice, is, to my mind, unwise.

My Hon'ble Friend Mr. Sayani, referred in the course of his remarks to something which had fallen from me in the discussion of last year with reference to measures for

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the amelioration of the condition of the people. I think he did not quite appreciate what I then said, because he seems to ask me to state now whether that programme should be formulated or adhered to. What I then said was that the programme which we had set before us had been knocked on the head by the calamities of the years 1896-97, but I added that though that took away from me the hope of seeing legislative measures passed during my term of office, I hoped something might be done to pave the way for them. I think I may say on behalf of the Government that they have done something in that direction. As Hon'ble Members are aware, a Tenancy Bill for the Central Provinces has been introduced into this Council, and if it had not been for the pressure of other work, would have been discussed this Session. Besides that, at the last meeting of the Council the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn introduced a measure for amending the Contract Act which we believe will have a very distinct effect upon the position of the agricultural population. And for the rest I have only to say that we have been still paving the way, and I very much hope that my successor, when he addresses the Council next year, may be able to look forward to even more legislative action than I have been able to speak of to-day.

Several Hon'ble Members have referred to the operations on the frontier, and perhaps they will expect me not to ignore this subject, which I admit is a perfectly legitimate subject to introduce into this discussion, considering the extent to which it affects the financial situation. At the same time, it is obviously impossible for me with the time at our disposal to-day to deal comprehensively with the very wide range of topics which any such attempt must imply. For instance, I have no intention of waking the echo of a controversy which at one time seemed likely to involve serious imputations on the Government of India and myself in particular,—the more so as for us in India it was an

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exotic plant that germinated and perished after a sickly existence far out of our sight, and I only mention it in order to acknowledge, on the one hand the warm and generous advocacy of the Noble Lord the Secretary of State and on the other, with like pleasure, the declaration of personal friends that their words were never meant to convey the imputation which they had seemed to imply. I willingly pass from this ; but there have been other charges levelled against men who have served the State long and faithfully with which I should dearly love to grapple. The fact is that now and again a spirit of self-abasement seizes on the British nation, and it seems almost to welcome any story of misconduct or mismanagement, however wild and uncorroborated. Never I think has the confidence of the public been more grossly abused than on the present occasion, and I offer my respectful sympathy to those officers whose honour and credit have been attacked by traducers who, as a rule, have not even the courage to append their names.

One misconception of a more general character it may be worth while to clear up. The picture has been drawn of a General and his troops, sitting in forced inactivity in their camp, while the civil officer was inditing long epistles to a distant Foreign Office. I am sorry to interfere with the artists' composition of these pictures, but the officer writing ought to be painted in a General's Uniform. It is quite true that a civil officer of wide experience, Sir Richard Udny, was attached to Sir William Lockhart's staff, with the title of Chief Political Officer ; but his position was carefully defined by myself, with the full concurrence of all concerned, as being analogous to that held by the Chief of the Staff on the military side. I am glad to say that both distinguished officers have since assured me that this arrangement worked without the slightest friction and to their mutual satisfaction. But the foundation on which it rested was that with Sir William Lockhart remained control in

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political matters as fully and completely as in military. It was of course the business of the Government of India, in consultation with Her Majesty's Government, to prescribe the objects for which the military operations were undertaken and the limits within which they were to be conducted; but within those limits the amplest discretion was given to the General Officer Commanding, and I feel certain that he would be the last man to say otherwise. I must not be taken, if I refer specially to the political side, to mean that it was different as regards military arrangements. I am concerned personally with things for which I am responsible. But as my gallant friend, Sir George White, is not now here to speak for himself, I may add that I know the support he gave to the Officer Commanding in the field was on this, as on all other occasions, untiring and ungrudging.

But it is said the expedition was a failure. I deny it. Remember we had not in all respects a free hand. If we could have chosen our own time, the spring, when the crops were ready for cutting, would have been our opportunity, followed or preceded by a rigorous exclusion of the tribe from its winter quarters; but in the circumstances of September last it was our unanimous opinion that we could not delay active operations so long. The decision was not taken with a light heart, for an invasion of the country of this powerful tribe could not, it was well known, be undertaken without risk. It might be that the Afridis would make a stand on the passes that gave entrance to the sacred maidan of Tirah. If so, there was the chance of something like a pitched battle, of a decisive victory and of a speedy submission, it may be with heavy losses, but a success which would strike the eye. But no one with any knowledge of frontier warfare could have failed to see that the other alternative was at least as probable, *viz.*, that the tribesmen would decline to face overwhelming forces and by retiring into their fastnesses use the oppor-

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tunity which the nature of their country gave for prolonging the contest. And if so, he must also have foreseen that the only course then open to us would be to withdraw from the uplands when the weather became too severe and establish our troops in a position to effect the blockade of which I have already spoken. And this was the withdrawal which was skilfully designed and carried out by Sir William Lockhart; so that it might be known to all men that from the slopes of the Safed Koh and the country of the Para Chamkanies, old offenders in Kurram, on the one side, and the Rajgal Valley on the other, down the course of the Mastura and Bara rivers to the confines of British India, our troops, starting from the sanctuary of Bagh in the heart of Afridi Tirah, had penetrated into and traversed the whole of the untrodden land of the Afridis and Orakzais so completely that, with the subsequent exploration of the Bazar Valley and occupation of the Khyber, scarcely a glen remained unvisited. That mistakes were made, and that lamentable losses were incurred ought not to be allowed to obscure the value of the end attained. Let those who criticise first make themselves acquainted with the difficulties and dangers of passes and defiles of which my Hon'ble Friend Sir Griffith Evans has spoken, which even those of us who know something of the outskirts of the Himalaya perhaps scarcely appreciate to their full extent. Whatever others may think, the tribes themselves make no secret about it, but confess themselves beaten. As their custom is, they have haggled over terms, and tried our patience severely, but their submission is now all but complete in every section. This submission, I would have you note, has not been secured by any slackening of the terms offered to the tribes. If we had diminished the tale of rifles and rupees originally demanded, it might be said with some truth that the objects of the expedition had not been fully attained. But that is not the case. I have every reason to believe that in the course of not many days

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our terms will have been satisfied in full, to the last rupee and the last rifle.

Well, I am not going to weary Council by referring to the fighting on any other part of the frontier. As a Military operation it has been admittedly successful. The net result was referred to by Sir Griffith Evans, and it is this. Hitherto in dealing with the frontier we have constantly had to do with tribes who had never seen British troops or realised the force we could send into the field. That state of things has come to an end for ever, and within the whole of the sphere of influence which our treaties secure to us, there is now scarcely a corner left where it has not been demonstrated that the forces of the Queen-Empress can and will come, if they are bidden. I say this in no spirit of vainglory, as an end I either contemplated or desired, but as a solid fact, which can be taken into account, and will, in my judgment, have a lasting influence on the policy of the future.

I do not intend to detain you by entering into an examination of the causes which led to the recent outbreaks or the policy which is now to be pursued. I should be obliged to repeat a great deal that has been exhaustively said elsewhere. As to the policy of the future Her Majesty's Government have spoken in their Despatch of January 2nd, to which Hon'ble Members have access. I concur in that policy and the explanation of it given by the Prime Minister in the House of Lords, and the Secretary of State and Mr. Curzon in the House of Commons. My own feeling throughout has been that while our obligations of whatever kind must be maintained, it was possible to do this with a minimum of interference with the internal affairs of the tribes, and that the avoidance, so far as possible, of direct administration was in every way desirable. I think, however, that there is a tendency to generalise too much in these matters. There are facts which have an important bearing, but are not always taken into account. I do not

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allude to elementary geographical facts, as when gentlemen on platforms place the road to Chitral and the Hindu Kush on any point of the frontier convenient to their argument. But it is material to know whether the country is a tract of inhospitable waterless hills where the people are miserably poor and naturally seek to improve their position by plundering their richer neighbours or anybody who comes within their reach, or whether it is a succession of fertile valleys producing more than sufficient for the wants of its inhabitants. It is material to know something of the political history of the country, whether the rule is personal or oligarchical or so purely democratic that in every village each man is as good as his neighbour, and is as likely to be shot by his neighbour as by anybody else. It is material to watch carefully any movement, social, religious or political, that may affect the demeanour of a people naturally and by custom liable to periods of great excitement. This is difficult work, but it is being done and often done exceedingly well by our frontier officers. I do not altogether accept the statement of the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans that we never know what is coming upon us. One of the greatest of our difficulties is to discover the exact moment at which an ebullition may take place ; but the best of our frontier officers do succeed in keeping their finger on the pulse of the temper of the people. That it is dangerous work, the lamentable incident lately reported from Baluchistan shews. The fate of Colonel Gaisford, cut off at the moment when he was preparing for the rest earned by long and arduous service, is specially sad, and I feel deeply for his family in their bereavement. It reminds us that frontier officers take their lives in their hands when they go out to their duty in isolated posts, and as, in a sense, the head of the department to which they belong, I enter my protest against much that has been said regarding them. The fact is that where a Political Officer combines firmness with patience and sympathy for the people

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with whom he is brought in contact, the difficulty before him is not how to increase his influence and interference but how to keep it within bounds. Far from resenting his presence the people when not excited welcome an impartial friend and adviser.

We are sometimes told that our policy has broken down. I cannot admit it. It might be true if we had really professed the policy of annexation and absorption with which in some quarters we have been credited. So far as I know, no Government of India has ever professed that policy; it has never been raised in my time. During the time I have known the Government of India, I maintain that we have never made an advance, or sent out a military expedition which was not forced upon us by obligations which we could not honourably ignore, and I feel bound to add that in our deliberations the first voice for peace where it was honourably possible was that of the late Commander-in-Chief.

It might be true that our policy had broken down if we had been professing the policy of jealous exclusion, where each offence must be followed up by a punitive expedition: but that has not been our policy, and in my judgment it is a barbarous policy far more likely in the end to lead to the necessity for a career of conquest and repression than any other.

No, our policy has not broken down, for it has been the same that has been once more defined by Her Majesty's Government, and has in truth guided the Government of India for many years. I suppose that of all my distinguished predecessors few had more genuine sympathy with native races and their feelings than Lord Mayo. I suppose there were few men who have spoken in this Chamber whose opinion on Indian politics carries more weight than Sir John Strachey. I desire to quote a short passage from a Minute in which Sir John Strachey describes Lord Mayo's foreign policy:—

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“ Having once satisfied himself that an expedition was unavoidable, he threw himself with all the energy of his nature into the measures necessary to make it a complete success. He was determined that there should be no repetition of previous mischievous failures. At the same time he was careful to prescribe that the expedition was not to be a measure of pure retaliation. The main end in view was to show the tribes that they are completely in our power ; to establish friendly relations of a permanent character with them ; to make them promise to receive in their villages, from time to time, Native agents of our own ; to make travelling in their districts safe to all ; to show them the advantages of trade and commerce ; and to demonstrate to them effectually that they have nothing to gain, and everything to lose, by placing themselves in a hostile position towards the British Government : in short, the expedition was to be preliminary to the adoption of general and wider measures of policy.”

From the spirit of that declaration, so far as I am concerned, I have not consciously departed : I am willing to conform to it now. I do not pretend to say that the task of the Government of India, or of its officers, will be an easy one in the near future. I do not conceal from myself that, however cautious and sympathetic our policy, outbreaks like those of last year must be expected from time to time, and if they occur they must be promptly and vigorously put down and punished. But I do think that in this policy lies the best hope of peace, because it is founded on reason and justice, inasmuch as while on the one hand abstaining from all arrogant assertion of authority, and on the other recognising that it is one of the first duties of the Government of India to adapt the measures it undertakes to the resources of the country, it does not shut out from all hopes of improvement and progress men whose chief fault is that they have never come under the civilising

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influences which established peace and order and some measure of prosperity bring with them.

I must not conclude without a word of acknowledgment to my Hon'ble Friends who in the course of this discussion have made personal reference to me in terms for which I am most grateful. I remember well that the first time I sat in this Council I bespoke the forbearance of Hon'ble Members while I endeavoured to carry on the business that came before us. No man can without a feeling of pride carry away with him the remembrance of presiding for five Sessions in the Council which is charged with the legislative business of this great Empire, but it must add greatly to the satisfaction of that remembrance if there is no record in his memory of any break in the cordiality of the feelings between himself and his colleagues. For that I have to thank the kindness and support I have ever met with from Hon'ble Members in this Chamber.

DINNER AT THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB, SIMLA.

[On the evening of Friday, the 14th of October, the Viceroy was 14th Octr. 1898. entertained at a farewell dinner by the Members of the United Service Club at Simla. Mr. A. U. Fanshawe, President of the Club, was in the Chair, and about 120 persons were present, including nearly all the leading Civil and Military Officials in Simla. After the toast of the Queen-Empress, the Chairman proposed the health of the Viceroy. In rising to do so he was received with applause. He said:—

Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—It seems to me that it was only the other day that I had the privilege of proposing the health of Lord Lansdowne at a farewell dinner at this Club, and yet the wheel has come the full circle, and to-night we are met to say farewell to Lord Elgin. I beg to assure him of our pride and pleasure in receiving him here, and of our genuine regret that the time should have come to speed another parting Viceroy.

So far as is known, Lord Elgin will leave India at the beginning of the New Year, and he will then, like his immediate predecessor, Lord Lansdowne, have completed the full term of five years for which he accepted office. He will, therefore, be one of the only two Viceroys who have done this since Lord Lawrence left India in 1869. Out here, Gentlemen, we know only too well that anxiety and difficulties are inseparable from the duty of governing this country, and that however closely the political horizon may be scanned, it will often be impossible to foresee from what quarter the next storm-cloud may arise. Lord Elgin's tenure of office has been marked; especially during its latter part, by a succession of calamities and trials, many of them unexpected, which no other Viceroy has been called upon to face since the Mutiny. A long and arduous campaign has been fought, and fought successfully, against famine; we are still struggling with the grim fiend pestilence, and last year, as cyclone followed earthquake in the east of the peninsula, it seemed as if the very forces of nature had conspired against the Government. Serious difficulties and unrest have had to be met within our borders, and only a few months ago, as I need not remind you, the whole of the North-West Frontier was in conflagration. At no period therefore, of late years, has there been greater need for calm courage and determination on the part of the ruler of India,—need for the true imperial spirit that rises higher in the face of adversity,—and never have these qualities and that spirit been more signally displayed than by Lord Elgin, whose attitude throughout has exem-

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plified the truth that in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

We have welcomed Lord Elgin to-night as members of the Services of which this Club is composed, and this, therefore, is no occasion for discussing the actual policy which has been followed in dealing with the frontier difficulties or other important questions which have occupied the attention of his Government. What has been done in these matters will stand recorded in the annals of the Empire. We wish, however, to express our admiration of the public spirit and high sense of duty which actuated Lord Elgin in accepting the grave responsibility of governing this country. We, Gentlemen, who know what the labours and anxiety of the ruler of India really are, and who can understand to the full how highly he has been tried by late events, offer him our sincere congratulations—if I may use again the words of his great predecessor, Lord Dalhousie—on bringing his task to a close with honour and success, and we trust that it may be a source of special gratification to him that this success should have been won in a field in which the high promise of his father's life fell short of fulfilment only because he was prematurely cut off in the midst of his work. Viceroy succeeds Viceroy to bear aloft the lamp of British rule for his appointed course in this country. No Viceroy has held that lamp on high with a firmer hand, or has pursued his course, amid perils and difficulties, with a more resolute step and indomitable purpose than Lord Elgin, and he will pass on the sacred lamp to his successor with its light unquenched and its brightness undimmed.

The difficulties and trials which have marked Lord Elgin's term of office have necessarily made special demands upon the Services represented in this Club, and I think we may claim with just pride that these demands have been loyally and fully met. Duty has always been the watchword of all branches of the Services in this country, and most of us can only hope to earn the satisfaction of having tried to do our duty. Now, Gentlemen, duty out here means strenuous work, and it has never meant this more emphatically than of late, especially to those who had been directly engaged in the famine and plague operations or in the frontier expeditions; and I should like to be allowed to say, that Lord Elgin, as the head of the Government, has himself possessed in a marked degree what has been well called "the grand essential gift," capacity for honest work, and that such work on the part of his subordinates has never failed to command his full recognition and support.

And now I must say a few words to mark our appreciation of the generous hospitality which has been extended with unsparing hand to

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old and young by Lord and Lady Elgin. We are a little apt at times to forget what a constant and serious strain these social ceremonies and lavish entertainments must be upon the energy and time of an overtaxed official like the Viceroy, but I trust that he will allow me to assure him that no entertainments have been looked forward to with greater pleasure, or recalled with a stronger sense of enjoyment than those at Viceregal Lodge. Lady Elgin has endeared herself especially to the young, and many small folk will look back with affectionate remembrance to happy evenings, and peeps into fairyland at Viceregal Lodge. No title has been more surely won than that of "The Children's Friend" by Lady Elgin, and I believe that it will be a genuine pleasure to her to know this. Let me add, too, how much we have appreciated what she has done in another direction: I mean in the interests of the Lady Dufferin Fund. This cause from the first has had her warm personal sympathy, and she has never allowed considerations of health or leisure to interfere with the devotion of her best energies to the work.

It only remains for us in saying farewell, to express our best wishes for Lord Elgin's future success and prosperity, and we trust that he will carry away with him many pleasant recollections of his stay in this country. Above all, there will be the consciousness of a great trust faithfully discharged, and new associations have grown up to link his life, already connected in interest with India through his father, still more closely to this country. The quiet grave overshadowed by the Himalayas is an old and sacred tie; and now the birth of a son, and more lately the marriage of a daughter, during his term of office, will constitute fresh links in the chain of affection to bind him to India. Gentlemen, I beg to propose the health of His Excellency Lord Elgin.

The speech was loudly applauded and the Viceroy's health was drunk with great heartiness.

His Excellency on rising was received with long and continued applause. He said:—]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I am not quite sure for which I ought to feel most grateful—for the words which you, Sir, have just spoken; for the reception which the company has given to your speech; or for the kindly feeling which prompted you all to invite me to meet you here on this occasion. Fortunately I have no need to discriminate, but for all your kindness I can return my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

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It seems to me that to-night I might almost fancy myself in the position of the veteran who, when forced to leave the "tented field where long he'd been a lodger," finds himself surrounded by his comrades in arms and carries away with him the undying remembrance of their farewell and good wishes. It may be that some of you may feel inclined to demur to my claim to be ranked as a veteran, and I must of course admit that there are gentlemen here with whom I cannot compete in number of years, and even less in length of Indian service. But still I am approaching the end of the service which the Government of India will accept from me, and that is a moment when what I mean by the feelings of a veteran comes uppermost. I remember on one occasion since I came to this country I had been dilating on the virtue of caution and patience in the pushing on of reforms, however beneficial, and as I sat down my friend beside me, an administrator well known for his ardent and energetic spirit, murmured in my ear—"There is one objection to patience, and that is the five years' tenure." I see now what he meant. No five years could suffice for all that might be done in such an office as I have been privileged to hold; and one must be content to leave hopes unfulfilled. But if I look at the matter from another point of view, I think I have even a better claim to the title of veteran. I wonder how many here present have held their present posts for five years without a break. Thinking over it the other day, I came to the conclusion that of all the higher official posts in India held by Members of the Governor-General's Council, Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Chief Commissioners, Agents to the Governor-General, and so on, of one only could it be said that I had seen no change, and that was the post of Member in charge of the Finance Department. My Hon'ble Colleague smiled on me when I arrived, and I hope to leave him still smiling. But

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if in the roll of veterans made up after this fashion I stand second only to Sir J. Westland, there cannot be much dispute as to my right to the name.

I may perhaps remark in passing that this characteristic of Indian official life—the constant interchange of appointments—though within bounds it may even have advantages—is one that may before long have to be seriously considered. There are many difficulties, and I will not disturb the harmony of this meeting by even suggesting them, or their remedies; but it is obvious that, whether it is a Department of Government, or a District of the country, the occurrence in the course of four or five years of an equal number of changes in the officers in charge must be full of inconvenience, and, if it does not make for less efficient management, must at least vastly increase the labour of the officers themselves, who are constantly called upon to study a fresh range of subjects and the idiosyncrasies of the new set of persons with whom they are brought into contact.

Gentlemen, I have also ventured to claim you as comrades in arms. I do so in no spirit of aggression. I have said elsewhere that the Empire of India has been won by the sword, and must be held by the sword if need be. But to-night I have no wish to introduce a martial ring into my words. I speak of a comradeship in a wider sense, for the maintenance in peace and honour of the Empire of our Sovereign the Queen-Empress in India. That is an object not for the Viceroy alone, but for every loyal subject of Her Majesty, and it imposes a duty upon all of every class and race and creed. Sir, you have justly pointed out that for us in India the due performance of our duty means hard work, and you have also justly recognised that in the matter of hard work the Viceroy has no monopoly. That is a point on which I feel strongly. It would be affectation on my part were I to deny that

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much labour must fall upon a Viceroy which he can share with no one, and the only plea I would put in for the holder of my office is that if he should sometimes appear pre-occupied and absorbed, it should not be attributed to a sullen disposition. But, on the other hand, I hope you will believe that it is equally without affectation that I decline to accept any special merit for the Viceroy in this question of work. He has his work to do, and he is sent to India to do it. But every officer of Government has his work, and in most cases work that he can only do by working his hardest. I believe that the level of hard work is so high in India that I cannot without a disclaimer hear any attempt to dissociate me from my comrades.

And, Sir, there is one development of this subject on which I would say a word. We all know the old fallacy that we come to Simla on a holiday excursion, and all that need be said of that is, that if Government places us where our energies and faculties find their fullest and best development, Government at any rate knows very well how to take its pound of flesh in the process. What I should like to urge is that we must be loyal to each other. Mr. Fanshawe has alluded to calamities of the last two years which have strained all the resources of Government. It is a mistake to suppose that those who were not present on the spot did not share in the burden and heat of the day. There is a friend of mine here to-night who could tell not only of days but of nights spent unflinchingly in the service of the State during the weeks or months which followed the outbreak on the Malakand of July 26th, 1897—I mean the Adjutant-General—and I know that the same spirit of devotion pervaded all the Departments concerned, and what Department was not concerned, with the ramifications of war, pestilence, and famine. It is a spirit which deserves general recognition in like manner and degree as the courage and determin-

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ation which makes men cheerfully face death at the hands of savage foes, or from the more subtle, but not less deadly, influences which follow in the train of famine and plague in the torrid plains or in the crowded cities of India.

Sir, I have already noticed your references to the calamities of the last two years, and I ought to add my grateful thanks for the sympathetic and appreciative manner in which you have touched upon them. I agree with you entirely that it would be unpardonable to introduce controversial matter here this evening. I think it is your intention, as it is mine, that our text should be good fellowship. I am not here to formulate a policy, to defend a Government, or to weary you by an *apologia pro vita mea*. My observations, therefore, on what I may call current politics shall be of the briefest and simplest.

As to the frontier, I shall only make three remarks, two of which I regard as simple statements of fact, one a statement of my own opinion.

In the first place, I state as a fact, which I should be prepared to prove if necessary, that the frontier wars of last year were not sought by us, were unprovoked by us, but were forced upon us in defence of interests which we were bound in honour not to sacrifice.

In the second place, I regard it as equally indisputable that the expeditions were successful expeditions, and fully achieved the objects for which they were sent out. Peace has now prevailed for six months in all the region of disturbance, and, as you are aware, the Afridi jirgas will meet in a few days to hear the conclusions of the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government on all questions outstanding with them.

Thirdly, I give it as my opinion that these things will in the end make for peace, and that the tribes which know now the length of our arm, and have felt our power to

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punish, will more readily under careful and sympathetic management come to recognise that we have no desire to trample on their rights or encroach on the self-government they prize ; and will be more careful for some time to come how they attack us.

Of Famine we can equally say that the enemy has been vanquished, vanquished in a manner worthy of the services by whom the work was done. It will always be a pride to me to remember that I was associated with them in their time of trial.

It is characteristic of India that the first thing we have done is to take steps to be even more ready next time. We have yet to receive the report of Sir James Lyall's Commission, but with it in their hands I have no doubt the Local Governments will repair any joints in their armour, though we must all hope the necessity for putting it on will be long in coming.

I fear we cannot say as much of our third enemy the Plague. His ways are insidious, his attacks sudden and baffling detection, and the best weapons to use against him have perhaps still to be discovered. You will probably agree with me that we may well invoke the aid of science to determine the true character of our foe. In the meantime no effort is spared in any part of the country. We have this week had the great satisfaction of seeing the great Port of Calcutta once more declared free—long may it remain so !

We parted only yesterday with our champions in this fight, Lord Sandhurst and Mr. Wingate. It is impossible to exaggerate the value of the cheerful courage with which my noble friend has faced this harassing duty for the last two years. It rejoices me extremely to believe that our Bombay friends have returned to the front assured not only of the sympathy of the Government of India, of that there could be no doubt, but that we are ready and willing to help to remove difficulties and to stand

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shoulder to shoulder with them. I think the people generally are coming to recognise that our wish is to co-operate with them for their own benefit, and that nothing will please us better than to see them voluntarily adopting the precautions most consistent with their customs and habits. The spread of inoculation, especially in the South, where it is reported that numbers are flocking in to the operators, is an encouraging piece of evidence in this direction.

Now, Sir, I have followed your lead, and have remarked on the three foes which the Government of India has lately had to encounter. It must be admitted that the circumstances, and especially the circumstance of their simultaneous appearance, have been exceptional, but then I think the Government of India must always be prepared to meet exceptional difficulties, and so far as possible to take them, as a distinguished Colleague of mine once said to me, "in their stride." And on one condition I believe it can be done. You, Sir, with a partiality which I daresay the occasion will be held to excuse, have attributed to me a share in these things which justice compels me to disclaim. The Viceroy does not—cannot—stand alone in these matters. On the contrary, no Viceroy is ever so strong as when he can count on the strong support of his Colleagues. From first to last my Colleagues have never failed me. I have known that I could always count upon them one and all for wise counsel, for ready aid, for the unanimity which permits prompt and energetic action. And, Sir, in answer to your appeal on behalf of the services represented in this Club, I can only say this, that if there is one thing that has impressed and touched me during my term of office, it is the absolute loyalty of the services to the Viceroy as the sovereign's representative. It struck me so much that some time ago I commented upon it, and the comment I made was that any Viceroy worthy of his place must wish to

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take advantage of it. I should like to take this opportunity of conveying through you, gentlemen, to the Services you represent, my sense of the deep debt of gratitude I owe to them.

And now, Sir, I have detained you long enough, and though the word farewell is one that we like to postpone, it must be spoken at last. I thank you for your generous appreciation of our endeavours to discharge our social duties in this community. You have even been kind enough to place ready to my hand an excuse for my own imperfections, of which I am the more willing to avail myself, as I believe so great a master of the art of social intercourse as Lord Dufferin has used it before me, and asked that his shortcomings in this respect should be excused by reason of the absorbing cares of his office. But if I may tell you the truth, I should have never attempted the task at all had I not calculated on what after your speech, Sir, I think I may say has happened, *i.e.*, that my faults are forgiven for Lady Elgin's sake. I know it has been her greatest wish that all should feel at their ease and really "at home" at Viceregal Lodge, and that the kind message I shall take home to her will amply repay her for any exertion. The entertainment of the children to which you have so feelingly alluded has been for her and for my daughters a labour of love. They will cherish the memory of the happy faces, of the artless prettiness, of the ready affection of their little Simla friends.

I suppose no Viceroy can ever enter upon his office without many misgivings. I am inclined to think now that he cannot lay it down without feeling that he has lived the best part of his life. He will be a fortunate man indeed if he can look forward to another period comparable to the five Simla seasons which have given him occupations so absorbing and opportunities so great, and all under conditions of climate and society calculated to promote health and strength, both of body and mind. You

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have eloquently reminded me, Sir, that the ties which bind me and my family to India are now stronger than they were. I am proud and glad to acknowledge it. And among them while life shall last, there will ever remain the memory of my Simla friends, and their kindness, and especially yours this evening.

[His Excellency resumed his seat amid loud and continued applause.]

CENTRAL PROVINCES TENANCIES BILL.

[In the Legislative Council, held at Viceregal Lodge on Friday, the 21st October, the Bill to amend the law relating to Agricultural Tenancies in the Central Provinces was taken into consideration. 21st Oct, 1898. After some discussion on certain amendments proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz moved that the Bill be passed.]

His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—]

I only want to say one word before I put this question in amplification of the reasons given by my Hon'ble Colleague for passing the Bill on the present occasion. I think it would be rather difficult to find a better example than this of a legislative enactment which has followed a course which has been careful—I may even call it slow and judicial. When I came to India I found that proposals for the amendment of this law in the Central Provinces had been submitted to the Government of India by the Local Government in the previous year, that is 1893. But in the ordinary course of business as it is transacted between the Government of India and the Local Governments I think it was not till 1895 that I was able to give some sort of hope to my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Chitnavis, that the amendment of the law which I think he then was urging upon us might be expected within a reasonable time. However, circumstances made my expectation in some degree premature, and it was not for more than two years afterwards that it was possible to lay a Bill before this Council, but one of the circumstances which during

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that interval caused delay was the famine, which affected work in the Government of India, and especially in the Central Provinces. The time, however, was not wasted, because it was employed in various communications between the Government of India and the Central Provinces Government, and with the Secretary of State and his Council, and so great were the opportunities of consultation that I think it is now the case that no less than four Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces have considered and expressed their opinions on this Bill, and have had an opportunity of consulting local opinion. The Hon'ble Member, Mr. Chitnavis, will bear me out in saying that consultation with local opinion on the part of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is not confined to his subordinate officers, but it has always been the practice to collect, so far as the Chief Commissioner can, the opinions of Native gentlemen like himself who can give valuable advice in a matter of this kind ; and that, I know he will agree, has taken place in connection with this measure. Well, we then come to the point at which the Bill was introduced last year—in 1897. It was introduced by an Hon'ble Colleague of mine, who had been Chief Commissioner himself in the Central Provinces before he came into this Council, and whose sympathetic attitude towards the people, I know, is recognised throughout India. It was fully intended last year that this Bill should be taken up and disposed of during the Calcutta session ; but circumstances again intervened: the legislative session proved a very heavy one, and it was not possible to give to this important Bill the time which we all admitted was necessary for its careful consideration in Committee. Accordingly, I think with the full concurrence of the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Chitnavis, it was arranged that the Committee should sit in Simla. That Committee was, as my Hon'ble Colleague has pointed out, a very strong Committee, because it was

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reinforced, not only by the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Chitnavis, who was a Member of this Council, but by the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller, who came up from the Central Provinces for the purpose, and whose knowledge of the country is second to none. Well, then, we are in this position. The Bill is largely concerned with technical and local details. It has been considered carefully by the Committee, who have not spared either time or trouble in its investigation, and it is now submitted to this Council as a Bill which, as the Hon'ble Member himself has said, is one which is generally approved. There are of course differences of opinion—it would indeed be impossible to arrive at a decision in regard to the details of a Bill of this kind in which there would not be some differences of opinion—but I cannot see that any advantage would be gained by continuing the discussion on these specific points at a future meeting of the Council in Calcutta, which would be attended by Members, to the majority of whom the subject would be entirely new. Under these circumstances I think that the Government is only acting in the interests of the Central Provinces themselves in asking the Council to pass the Bill at this sitting. I hold very strongly the principle that the Government in India is a continuing Government, and that it is absurd, I might say impracticable, to draw a line where one Viceroy—a Viceroy or anyone else—demits his office, and to say that the matter in question ought to be concluded at a certain specific point. At the same time it will be a personal satisfaction to me to affix my signature to a Bill which, on the authority of my Hon'ble Colleague and the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis also, is one which will prove a measure of relief to so large a number of persons in the Central Provinces—a Province which has suffered severely during my term of office—and I can only hope they will accept it as an omen of the happy future which I trust is in store for them.

FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE SIMLA MUNICIPALITY.

7th Nov. 1898. [On Monday, the 7th November 1898, the Members of the Simla Municipality waited on the Viceroy at Viceregal Lodge and presented him with a farewell address, which was as follows :—

We, representing the citizens of this Municipality, venture to address your Excellency upon the approaching termination of the tenure of the high office you have filled with such distinction. Nearly five years ago this Committee had the honour of respectfully congratulating and welcoming your Excellency upon assuming the Viceroyalty of this Empire; and to-day we are here to congratulate your Excellency upon the success which has characterized the administration of the affairs of this vast country, and on the manner in which your Government has ruled and guided it through a period of unparalleled anxiety and misfortune. The magnificent efforts of the executive officers, guided by your Excellency's Government, were manifest to us, as well as to the rest of the world, in the alleviation of severe and widespread distress during the famine, now, under God's providence, so happily ended. The measures adopted in regard to the terrible pestilence which still rages in some parts of the land have been very successful in restricting the scourge, and much suffering has been obviated under your Excellency's direction. The evils of war, with which the country has been afflicted, have been brought to an end, while the internal welfare of the Empire has been steadily advanced by pushing forward communications and by developing resources. May we venture to express our conviction that you will still exercise a beneficent influence over our affairs, and that the bond of sympathy which now exists between us, strengthened as no doubt it has been by happy domestic incidents in your Excellency's family which marked your stay among us, may never be loosened. Locally we have to thank you for the very comprehensive scheme still in the hands of the Committee appointed by Government for the improvement of our water-supply and the extension of our sanitary system—important measures the need of which has long been felt and has lately become most pressing in view of the rapidly increasing population of the town. In conclusion, we ask to be permitted to tender our grateful acknowledgment of the support and encouragement afforded to our local charities and institutions by Lady Elgin; and in the hope that your Excellency may live long in health and prosperity, and high in the service and confidence of

Farewell Address from the Simla Municipality.

our beloved, revered Queen-Empress, we bid you a regretful but hearty farewell.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I find it difficult to convey to you, as I should wish to do, my grateful sense of the kindness with which the Address which has just been read is full.

In the first place I have to thank you for coming here. I remember well meeting you, or your predecessors in office, in this room in April 1894, and receiving your welcome, and it is a great satisfaction to me that I should not leave Simla without an opportunity of bidding you good-bye.

In the second place, I have to thank you for the appreciative manner in which you have spoken of the labours of the Government of India during the years which have elapsed since we last met. I cannot deny that even in the peaceful atmosphere which you enjoy there have been times when we have been very anxious, very hard-pressed in many ways. It is not for me to say how we have got out of our difficulties. To my mind all that a man is entitled to say of himself is that he has not consciously done less than his best: success or failure are terms he must leave to others. You, *Gentlemen*, have been good enough to express satisfaction with our exertions in the various matters of administration with which we have had to deal, and I thank you on my own behalf and that of my colleagues. The favourable verdict of friends and neighbours is always pleasant.

When I addressed you on my arrival I promised, if I recollect rightly, to study to preserve intact the good relations between Viceregal Lodge and Simla which I inherited. I have here again to thank you for your appreciation of our efforts, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy and cordiality which has met us at every turn and from all classes. I can honestly assure you that I have always endeavoured to sympathise with the difficul-

Farewell Address from the Simla Municipality.

ties which you, the Municipality, have necessarily had to encounter in your attempt to grapple with all the growing wants of the community. We more than sympathised—I think I may almost say we suffered—with you in the apprehensions of a water famine last year and this, and in the restrictions which you were compelled to enforce. I have not yet studied, but I mean still to study, the report of the Committee which is now before you, and by whose advice I doubt not you will be largely guided in determining the remedial measures which you must adopt. I shall study them, even though far away, with a pretty accurate knowledge of all that they imply. I doubt if even among yourselves there are many who know better the localities from which you draw your supplies of water, and the delightful paths through the beautiful woods that clothe the hills, where I have rambled many happy hours and come back refreshed for my work.

And so, Gentlemen, I can safely promise you the continued interest in your affairs which you desire of me. When I came here, Simla was already a household word with me and my family; it is more so now. The history of a family is largely made up of the domestic incidents to which you have alluded, and you have justly claimed that our family is the happier for the domestic incidents which in our minds will ever be connected with Simla. And so, Gentlemen, in returning you once more my thanks, and the thanks of Lady Elgin and of my family for all your kindness and good-wishes, I ask you to believe that I speak in all sincerity, in spite of the overwhelming attractions of home, if I assure you that it is with real regret that I now face the necessity of bidding you farewell.

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INVESTITURE AT PATIALA.

[At 6 P.M., on Tuesday, the 8th November, a Durbar was held in the Palace at Patiala at which the Viceroy invested His Highness the Maharaja as a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India, and Mr. L. W. King, I.C.S., as a Companion of the same Order. At the close of the ceremonies of investiture His Excellency spoke as follows :—] 8th Nov. 1898.

Maharaja : It has been a genuine pleasure to me to come here on this occasion and to invest your Highness with the insignia of the exalted Order to which Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint you, in the capital of your State and in presence of so many representatives of the Sikh nation. I think it will be recognised that under any circumstances this was fitting, but if so, it was abundantly fitting in the circumstances of the times in which we live. It would be no great strain on the imagination for us to fancy that we still heard the echoes of the strife of last year and the tramp of the battalions which your Highness and the Raja of Nabha and other Chiefs sent out to do battle, shoulder to shoulder with the armies of the Queen-Empress. And the page lies open before us on which is inscribed the name of Saragarhi, that last on the ever-lengthening list of deeds of arms which testify to the unflinching bravery and devotion of the Sikh soldier.

I welcome this occasion as giving me an opportunity of publicly declaring the admiration with which, in common with all my countrymen, I regard the constancy and loyalty of the Sikh nation. Nor do I think it out of place to remind you that, mingling with the echoes to which I have referred, we find now the softer tones of peace, and that the proceedings of the jirgas assembled at Peshawar give good hope that there will be no further discordant note. No well-wisher of his country could desire it to be otherwise. We have no abiding quarrel,—we can

Investiture at Patiala.

desire no abiding quarrel—with our neighbours in the hills. On the contrary the policy we have proclaimed is, I think, the same which I myself declared at Lahore in 1894, before the assembled Chiefs of the Punjab, when I said it was our aim “to leave to them the entire occupation of their country, the fullest measure of autonomy, and the most complete liberty in their internal affairs to follow their tribal customs.” Whatever else may have happened, to this declaration I claim that I have adhered, so that no tribe or section of a tribe has since then been compelled against its will to surrender any territory, or any right of self-government which it desired to retain.

Is there not then some road to an understanding? The road we have followed has not been the one which I would have selected had I been free to choose, but at the end of it we at any rate know more of the tribes, and they know more of us than was the case before. They on their side know that, even in the hour of victory, our terms are not cruel or vindictive and aim at nothing more than a fair and reasonable settlement. We on our side recognise the soldierly qualities which they have displayed. I cannot deny myself the hope that the time will come when these tribes will prove themselves staunch allies and supporters of the British rule in India, and seek to emulate, if they cannot surpass, the reputation in that respect which is the undying heritage of the Sikh nation.

To your Highness, as one who by the equipment and maintenance of the Imperial Service Troops, and by leading them to the field, has worthily sustained the credit for loyalty of the State and Chief of Patiala, I offer my personal congratulations on the honour bestowed upon you by Her Majesty.

I desire to congratulate you also, Mr. King, who have known well how to guide and influence the wayward inclinations of the tribesmen in the right direction, on the

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mark of your Sovereign's approbation which I have had the pleasure to convey to you.

DINNER AT PATIALA.

[The Maharaja of Patiala entertained the Viceroy and the 8th Novr 1898 Countess of Elgin, Lady Elisabeth Smith, and His Excellency's Staff, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and Lady Mackworth Young, and other guests, on Tuesday evening, the 8th November, at dinner in the Maharaja's Guest House. After dinner His Highness proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, and then proposed the health of their Excellencies, thanking them very heartily for the honour they had done him by visiting his State on the eve of their departure from India, an honour which he said was conferred not only upon him personally, but upon the Patiala State, and the whole Sikh nation.

His Excellency in replying to the toast spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I have already this afternoon expressed the gratification which it has given me to attend here to-day to invest the Maharaja with the insignia of the Order which Her Majesty has conferred upon him and, as he has said, I have endeavoured to point out that that honour is one which is done to the Sikh nation of which he is a representative. We all, I know, honour and respect the Sikh nation for the manner in which it has stood by us in many difficult times, and we are glad to see the Chief of Patiala putting himself once more in the fore-front and leading his men in a time of emergency. We, I think, all recognise that the present Maharaja of Patiala is a man with much energy, and I, at any rate, have nothing to complain of if it finds an outlet in those manly sports which we, coming from Britain, value as a good means of education. The only thing that I should like to say—and perhaps the Maharaja will allow me to claim the privilege of an old friend as I have now known him for some years—is that I should

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wish that those manly sports and the energy which he puts into them would lead on to other things also. I cannot help thinking that a man who can make fifty runs against good bowling has nerve and I believe that a man who goes into the unknown region, as it was then, of the Mohmand country, has pluck. The two together show resolution; and I should like my esteemed friend the Maharaja to shake off a little of the modesty which he once or twice expressed to me. He has told me that after all the work of a statesman or practical administrator is beyond his capacity. I do not believe it, and I hope that though we are going away and shall soon be very far distant from Patiala, the time will come when we shall hear that the Maharaja has put himself in the fore-front in that capacity also, to the honour of Patiala and the States of the Punjab. I am very sorry, indeed, Maharaja, that time has not permitted us to pay you a longer visit as you have so hospitably expressed your wish that we should have done. The fact is, that it is rather difficult for a Viceroy to make his plans. Even last week the fear came upon me that, with a fate like that which befel me last year, I might be obliged, once more, to postpone all my journeys. Fortunately the cloud which hung over European politics has lifted a little, and we are able to set forth on our journey. All I can say is that I am exceedingly glad that I do not leave India without paying even this short visit to the Phulkian States, and I ask you now, ladies and gentlemen, to join with me in drinking to the health of the Maharaja of Patiala and prosperity to the Phulkian States of the Punjab.

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ADDRESSES AT CHITTAGONG.

[On Saturday afternoon the 12th November the Viceregal Party 12th Nov. 1898. arrived at Chittagong where their Excellencies were received by Mr. Manisty, Commissioner of the Division, and other Civil and Military Officers, planters and Native gentlemen. In a shamiana erected outside the railway station the Viceroy received addresses of welcome from the District Board and Municipality of Chittagong. The District Board welcomed their Excellencies, regretting that the welcome was also necessarily a farewell and their visit so brief. Lord Dalhousie and the present Viceroy, they remarked, were the only two Viceroys who had visited Chittagong. They were both rulers who had been burdened with, and had successfully and honourably faced, labours and perplexities greater than those which ordinarily fall to the lot of a Viceroy. The Board congratulated His Excellency on the success with which the frontier troubles and plague and famine had been met. They referred to the disastrous effects of the cyclone in October last year which ruined the harvest and slew some 14,000 people. The extra expenditure to the Board in consequence amounted to Rs60,000 for repairing roads, bridges and bungalows. This was partly met by economies and partly by a loan of Rs30,000 advanced by the Lieutenant-Governor. In other respects prospects were improving; prices were falling, the inhabitants were no longer dependent on Burma for food, and the district was rapidly returning to its normal condition of contented prosperity. Like Assam, this, they said, was a land of petty proprietors, and there were no men of great wealth or large possessions, but the general standard of comfort and prosperity was high. In conclusion they wished their Excellencies farewell and a pleasant tour. The Municipal Commissioners, in welcoming their Excellencies, expressed their appreciation of the blessings the inhabitants of Chittagong enjoyed under British rule, and admiration of the justice and high sense of duty which had marked Lord Elgin's administration and of his having triumphantly overcome the difficulties inseparable from the Government of this country. They thanked the Viceroy for his sympathetic telegram on the occasion of the disastrous cyclone in October last year, and gratefully acknowledged the solicitude of Government towards the sufferers, as well as the humanity and energy displayed by the district officials. They reminded His Excellency that Chittagong is the headquarters of one of the three ancient districts first ceded to the British Government by the Muhammadan

Addresses at Chittagong.

rulers of India, of whose sway it still contains many interesting relics. In conclusion they wished their Excellencies an enjoyable tour in Burma, hoping that they would retain pleasant memories of Chittagong. His Excellency replied to the two addresses as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the District Board and of the Municipal Commission of Chittagong:—It is a pleasure to me to acknowledge the sentiments which are to be found in the two addresses which have just been read. In the first place, I acknowledge the sentiment of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and to the Government established in India under her authority. I entirely agree with you that we cannot over-estimate the value of a just and imperial rule. In the second place I have to acknowledge the manner in which you have spoken of our efforts to meet the various difficulties which have come upon us during the troublous years through which we have just passed. It is specially gratifying to me to hear the reference you have made to the telegram of sympathy which I sent to you in your hour of trial, and I am glad to know that it proved to some extent a comfort and encouragement to you. I well remember how that calamity impressed us. After the earthquake, we had thought that our cup of bitterness was full, but the wave which overtook you may be said to have filled it to overflowing. I am glad to hear that you are setting to work to repair the great damages which you have suffered. The loss of life unfortunately we cannot repair, and all I can do is to repeat my sympathy.

Gentlemen you have called my attention to the antiquity of your town, and to the fact of its long connection with British rule, and you have added, what I will not call a word of complaint, but a word of friendly remonstrance that on this, only the second occasion of a Viceroy's visit to Chittagong, I come only to depart. Well, the opportunities for visiting are very much a matter of the means of communication, and I think you will admit that in that

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respect Chittagong has not hitherto been very well off. But things are improving, and things have improved during my time in India. During my term of office Chittagong has become the terminus of a line of railway which has great possibilities in the future. What that future may be I do not venture to predict. The railway will be fortunate, indeed, if it is able to recoup the Government of India for the vast expenditure which has been incurred, and has still to be incurred, on its construction; but it is to penetrate into the Province of Assam, a province of vast resources lying open to development, and the explorations of Mr. Way have told us that it is within the realm of possibility that this railway may be a link in the line which years hence may form the connection by land between India and Burma. But however that may be in the future, I cannot but think that it must benefit the town and district of Chittagong, and indeed I should imagine that it has already done so by opening out your own district, and therefore it was that as this place has bulked largely in our discussions of these matters I have been anxious to visit it, and I would have you believe that though my time may be too short either to enable me to examine your antiquities in the manner that they deserve, or even to find an opportunity of admiring the great rivers which we have crossed, and the picturesque scenery through which we have travelled in coming here, still I shall carry away with me, in conjunction with the welcome which you have given me, the remembrance of the general prosperity and the brightening prospects which you have described, and, with the kind wishes which you have put into your farewell, I shall associate hopes for the still more prosperous future of Chittagong which I myself venture to think you have reason to expect.

ADDRESS FROM THE RANGOON MUNICIPALITY.

16th Nov. 1898.

[On Wednesday morning, the 16th November, the Viceregal Party arrived at Rangoon by the Royal Indian Marine Steamer *Clive*, from Chittagong. His Excellency was received at the landing place by Sir Frederic Fryer, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, and all the principal officials of Rangoon. In a large pandal, erected close to the Sulé Pagoda Wharf where the landing took place, were seated several hundred persons representing all the civil, military, and mercantile residents of Rangoon, including the members of the Rangoon Municipality who presented an address of welcome to the Viceroy. The address, which was read by the Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed their Excellencies on behalf of the inhabitants of Rangoon of every nationality and expressed the deepest feeling of loyalty to the Queen-Empress and the Viceroy, remarking that his Excellency, during his visit in Burma, would find everywhere evidence of the prosperity which had followed the British rule. Regret was expressed that important affairs of State prevented the Viceroy from visiting Burma last year, but the Municipality were glad to have this opportunity of welcoming his Excellency before the expiration of his Vicereignty, and hoped he would carry away pleasant recollections of Burma, and that should occasion arise he would do his utmost to promote the interest of the province and its inhabitants.]

His Excellency the Viceroy in replying spoke as follows:—]

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Municipality of Rangoon:—*I desire to respond with equal warmth to the welcome which you have offered. You have told me that you speak for every class of every one of the many nationalities in Rangoon, and in their name you proclaim your loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, while you welcome me as her Representative.

*Gentlemen,—*If you will allow me to say so, that is exactly how I could have wished to see it put. I have never concealed my opinion that the tours in various parts of the country which the Viceroy makes each year are essentially a part of his duty, a pleasant part of his duty it may be, but none the less a duty, undertaken not for

Address from the Rangoon Municipality.

mere personal gratification, but for objects of public importance. And one of these objects, and by no means the least in importance, is to afford opportunities to Her Majesty's subjects, in the presence of Her Majesty's representative in India, for manifestations of loyalty and affection for her throne and person, such as those you are now making. By your act to-day you have called me as a witness to your professions, and I officially and solemnly register the fact.

I was anxious for many reasons to visit this important province, and, allowing nothing more than a reasonable interval from the visit of my predecessor, I had arranged to come here last year. The cause which intervened and frustrated my intention was, as you recognise, wholly beyond my control. It was an imperial necessity, a necessity of the Empire of India, to which you belong, that the members of the Government of India should not separate during the critical weeks in November 1897. I was very loth to admit that I must abandon my visit, and delayed till the very last moment any announcement on the subject. I only hope I did not cause inconvenience thereby. If this year I hesitated, it was for no other reason than this, that I was unwilling to call upon you too soon to renew those loyal preparations without which I felt you would not desire to receive Her Majesty's representative. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor assured me that I need not scruple on this score, and what I have already seen and heard goes far to convince me he was right.

But a Viceroy's visit not only gives an opportunity for loyal manifestations; it is also an opportunity for transacting business. It is in my judgment of the highest importance that from time to time the representatives of the Imperial Government and of the Local Government should meet and should confer on the spot, so that matters which are ripe for a decision may be decided, and matters which

Address from the Rangoon Municipality.

can be advanced may be pushed on. No one need imagine that this business is prejudiced by the fact that in a few weeks I shall hand over my office to my successor. The business of the Government of India proceeds, and must proceed, in spite of the changes of its officers, and it will be my duty to take care that all points to which my attention is called in Burma are expeditiously disposed of, or properly recorded with a view to progress. In one respect only can I see that my early departure from India might under certain circumstances have seemed a disadvantage to you. If there were some question of interest on which local opinion had been unable to make as much way with the Government of India as it desired, you might possibly think demonstrations only practicable on the spot, and perhaps the sentiments towards generous and cordial hosts which we all like to carry away with us might predispose me to advocate your cause in Calcutta or Simla. I am not aware that any such question has arisen or is likely to arise. Otherwise I think it would still be open to me in regard to it to answer as I now do in the words of your Address, and to give the more comprehensive assurance you require of me, by declaring that I shall, if occasion arise, do my utmost to promote the interest of this province and its inhabitants.

Gentlemen,—You hold out to me the anticipation that here and elsewhere in Burma I shall find on every side evidence of the prosperity which has followed British rule. It is an attractive programme, but believe me it will not obliterate in our recollection the very kind greeting which this morning you have given to Lady Elgin and myself on our first landing in Burma. and entering the great commercial city of Rangoon.

ADDRESS FROM THE MANDALAY MUNICIPALITY.

[The Viceroy, the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elisabeth Smith, 19th Nov. 1898. and the Members of His Excellency's Staff arrived at Mandalay on Saturday afternoon the 19th November. Sir Frederic Fryer, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, Mr. Adamson, Commissioner of the Mandalay District, together with the principal civil and military officials, were in attendance to receive the Viceroy. In a large pandal, erected outside the railway station, in which were seated the principal European and Native residents of Mandalay, an address of welcome to their Excellencies was read on behalf of the Municipality by Captain Browning, the Deputy Commissioner. The Municipality cordially welcomed the Viceroy and Lady Elgin to the principal town in Upper Burma and expressed their deep loyalty and devotion to the Queen-Empress. The Viceroy, they said, was the third they had welcomed since, 13 years ago, Mandalay had become part of the British Empire. During those years vast changes and improvements were effected, and nowhere was this more manifest than in Mandalay, which was no longer the squalid town of 10 years ago; there were now spacious roads and tree avenues, properly lighted streets, and a cantonment which, for neatness and picturesqueness of outline, could compare favourably with any in India. Steps were being taken in the matter of conservancy and water-supply and a general hospital had been erected and two leper asylums were lately supported by Municipal funds. Further, an era of prosperity had been assured to the town by the construction of the railway through the Northern Shan States and the carrying out of the Mandalay canal.

A translation of this address having been read in Burmese, the Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee of Mandalay:—I am greatly obliged to you for your cordial welcome to your interesting city.

In common with all my countrymen I have long admired the great ability and versatility of my illustrious predecessor, Lord Dufferin. I come here to find him in the role of a prophet, and a true prophet. When Lord Dufferin arrived in Mandalay, some 13 years ago, the ink of the proclamation which declared Upper Burma a part of Her Majesty's dominions was scarcely dry, and Her Majesty's

Address from the Mandalay Municipality.

forces were still employed in the somewhat arduous task of putting down dacoity and removing the other causes of disorder which were the relics of the misgovernment that had brought about our interference. But I find it recorded that Lord Dufferin even then did not hesitate to prophesy that, ere a decade had passed away, we should be able to reckon the inhabitants of Upper Burma amongst the most contented and prosperous of Her Majesty's subjects. I think if I were to send my noble friend a copy of the Address which has just been read, he would see in it satisfactory evidence that his words have come true. I believe you correctly describe the prosperity which has come to Upper Burma during this decade, and that you fitly represent the loyal feeling of its inhabitants which that prosperity has evoked.

Gentlemen, as to yourselves, I stand only at the gate of your city, and I cannot of course say anything from personal knowledge either of the town of 10 years ago, or of the town of the present day. But taking the comparison you have drawn, and the picture as you have painted it, I must admit that you have much which may well be to you a source of satisfaction and of legitimate pride. In my opinion you have been wise in your generation to lose no time in improving and beautifying your city. It is no doubt true that some places attract commerce and wealth in spite of the neglect of their governing bodies, and I am far from saying that the position of Mandalay is not one that must always make it a town of importance. Still a well-governed town starts with an advantage in the race, especially when, as in your case, there is good reason to anticipate an ever-increasing flow of visitors, attracted by the historical associations of the place and the interesting country which the railway extensions are opening out. One word of caution you must allow me. However fair its exterior, no city in these days can claim to be in the first rank of progress which cannot speak with confidence

Address from the Mandalay Municipality.

of its water-supply and conservancy. I am glad to hear that you are taking steps to supply these most essential wants, and I trust that, when my successor visits you, you will be able to point to them too as instances of your energy and public spirit.

Gentlemen, I look forward with pleasure and interest to witnessing during the next few days the signs of the prosperity of Upper Burma of which you have spoken, and to tracing its connection, as I believe I shall, with the operations of that great and beneficent department of the Government of India, the Public Works Department, which in Burma, as elsewhere, has done so much, by the construction of roads and railways and by the promotion of irrigation, to add to the comfort and well-being of the people. It would be easy to dilate on these topics, but this is not the time, and I have only once more to thank you, on Lady Elgin's behalf as well as my own, for the welcome you have given us and the very kind wishes you have expressed in your Address.

ADDRESS AT MYITKYINA.

26th Nov. 1898.

[The Viceregal Party, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, arrived at Myitkyina, the farthest point of this Excellency's tour and of railway communication, at 9-30 A.M. on the 26th November. Here their Excellencies were received by Captain Townsend, Deputy Commissioner, and the Principal Civil and Military officials. In a pandal adjoining the Railway Station in which were assembled a number of Kachin Sawbwas, two or three Shan Chiefs, and Burman headmen, an address of welcome from the people of the town was presented to His Excellency. The people, it said, were as happy to see and make obeisance to the Viceroy as if they had discerned the full moon surrounded with luminous stars, and had been praying for the fulfilment of their desire to see His Excellency, for his long life and that of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. In former times the people lived in dread of the Kachin marauders, who found secure refuge in the jungles and mountains and raided on the villages. Now, under the protection of the Queen, they were free from this anxiety; the wild tribes were becoming civilized; the town had consequently developed and trade communications greatly improved by the extension of the railway; the people were also happy and contented in prospect of good crops and in the regularity of the season, a result which was undoubtedly due to the rectitude and loyalty of the Government officers. His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows:—]

I understand that you speak in the name and on behalf of the inhabitants of the town of Myitkyina, and I desire to express to you, and through you to the Community you represent, the satisfaction with which I have noticed the professions of loyalty to our Sovereign, the Queen-Empress, which are to be found in the address which has just been read. You in this district have had bitter experience of the want of a strong and stable Government. I rejoice to know that you recognise that in the establishment of the British Government amongst you, you have obtained not only peace and security of life and property from the attacks of depredators and troublesome neighbours, but also a full measure of prosperity and contentment. I agree with you that the railway by which we have come here is destined largely to increase that prosperity. It is

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too early, before it is really completed, to estimate all that the future may bring; but I think I can say with some confidence that if the beauties of the scenery through which we have passed are made widely known, it will ensure a succession of travellers who will follow in our footsteps in the days that are to come. In the meantime I avail myself of the privilege of a first traveller to congratulate you on the formation of this connection with the great world of progress and of civilization.

Standing, as I now do, on the farthest and most remote spot in this great province of Burma which I can hope to reach, it is extremely gratifying to me to be met not only by your friendly greetings, not only by the signs of a favourable season which we see around us, but also by the assurance that you know and feel that the rule of the Queen-Empress means to you, as it must to all her subjects throughout her vast dominions, the continuance of a firm, just and sympathetic Government and of all the benefits and blessings which flow therefrom.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT BHAMO.

[The Viceregal Party arrived at Bhamo on Monday, the 12th 28th Nov. 1898. November, at noon. The Viceroy accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor landed shortly afterwards and was received by Mr. Cholmeley, the Deputy Commissioner, and other officials, and a Guard of Honour of the 2nd Burma Regiment. In a pandal near the landing place in which were assembled the principal Burman representatives of Bhamo and the district, a number of Shans, Civil and Police Officers, and European residents, an address of welcome was presented to His Excellency by the inhabitants of the town and district of Bhamo.

The address expressed gratification that the Viceroy should have found time to visit them before retiring from office, and congratulated His Excellency on the wisdom which enabled him to bring the Empire safely through a period of great difficulty and danger, and leave it once again in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity. In

Address at Bhamo.

Burma, they had been fortunate in escaping the troubles which afflicted other parts of India and could look back upon the period of the Viceroy's administration as one of steady advance and peaceful development. In the Bhamo district, this was very noticeable. Five years ago the tribes on the Chinese frontier were still in a turbulent state, and the district was not free of dacoits and bad characters. Now the Kachins had become almost as peaceful and law-abiding as the Burmans themselves and, as a consequence, there was a total disappearance of organised crime. Deserted villages were being restored and new villages were springing up in all directions, and the outturn of rice in the district was increasing with great rapidity. In the town of Bhamo itself avenues of trees had been planted and good metalled roads had been constructed and also a complete system of street lighting. They were also assured of early and improved communication with China, and thus their trade might receive encouragement.

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

I desire to convey to the inhabitants of the town and district of Bhamo my cordial thanks for the address which has just been presented to me and for the friendly terms in which it is expressed.

It is indeed a fortunate circumstance that when province after province was plunged into the sea of troubles which threatened to overwhelm the Empire of India during the last two years, Burma lay in the quiet waters of peace and was able to contribute from its full granaries to the wants of the more necessitous. When my predecessor, Lord Lansdowne, visited you just five years ago, he was able, I believe, to congratulate you on the recent establishment of law and order in your midst. It is a great satisfaction to me to hear you say that during my term of office the pacification of the country has gone on uninterruptedly. It would, perhaps, not have been surprising in old days if some of your troublesome neighbours had attempted to add yet one more burden to the over-taxed resources of the Government of India in its time of trouble. That nothing of the kind was attempted corroborates what you say of the state of the country, and may well serve to assure you, if any assurance is needed, that

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the British Government is able and willing to protect you against the molestation of enemies such as you suffered in former times.

I learn from the chronicles that Bhamo has had a long and varied history and many vicissitudes of fortune. I trust that with the improvements you record in your address you are now entering upon a new era of prosperity. I am not surprised to see your reference to the trade with China. You have at least as good a claim to a share of it as many of your competitors. As we all know, the great nations of the world are vieing with each other in the endeavour to obtain access to the undeveloped markets of that great Empire. It would be vain for me even to speculate as to what may happen. But I may allow myself the hope that ancient routes like this may not be wholly shut out. It is wise, however, to have a second string to your bow, and the renewal of and extension of cultivation, with the increased trade which results therefrom, and which we can ourselves command, will I hope ensure Bhamo a place, as the centre of a rich district, with which it will have no reason to be dissatisfied.

DARBAR AT RANGOON.

[On Thursday, the 8th December, the Viceroy held a Darbar at 5 P.M. in the ball room of Government House, Rangoon, for the purpose of bestowing honorary distinctions on a number of Native gentlemen who had rendered services to the Government. All the principal Government Officers, Civil and Military, of Rangoon, were present, besides many ladies who received the proceedings from the galleries. After the various recipients had received from the Viceroy's hands the Sannads conferring their respective titles, His Excellency addressed the Darbar as follows:—]

The primary purpose for which we have met this afternoon is the ceremony which we have just witnessed: and I desire to say that it has given me much pleasure to hand to these gentlemen, who have been presented before us,

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the marks of distinction which they have earned by good service and tried efficiency. The work which they have done has been proclaimed before this assemblage and it is unnecessary for me to repeat it, but I offer to them my congratulations on having been thus selected. I trust that this may prove not only a satisfaction to themselves and to their friends, but also an incentive to others to follow their example.

I may also offer my congratulations to the Local Government on the fact that they have a service of the Natives of this Province, from whom they feel justified in making a selection, such as this, for honour and reward. There is in my opinion no duty which falls upon a Government, or the Head of a Government, more anxious and delicate than that of distributing rewards. I do not refer so much to rewards which take the form of payment of money, as to the titles or tokens of honour which denote merit, but do not as a rule carry with them pecuniary advantage. It is sometimes said that these things do not cost Government much and may be liberally bestowed; but at the same time there must be limitations, and there must be discrimination, if the value of the reward is to be maintained. I suppose few realise the full nature of the difficulties which are imposed on those with whom lies the duty of choice. I can speak for the Government of India, where we have to consider not one Province but all the Provinces of the Empire, and all the good work done, military and civil, official and non-official, under all the varied conditions which exist therein. If it be true, therefore, that cases occur in which men can allege honourable service without the reward adjudged for like causes to others, on the other hand it is no less true that the task of weighing claims flowing in from all sides and from many sources, and of doing justice to legitimate aspirations, becomes on occasions a problem so complicated as to excite a feeling approaching to despair.

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I have been led to touch upon this subject not only by the distribution just made, but by what I have witnessed in passing through the Province. I have visited the city which only 13 years ago was the capital of an independent kingdom, since conquered by force of arms, and now incorporated with the Empire of India. I have penetrated into remote districts, which in still later days have seen many a desperate fight, when our men have carried formidable stockades, or repelled midnight attacks. I was not surprised to find everywhere a large proportion of men bearing on their breasts the medals that betoken a share in exciting episodes and gallant deeds, but the fact, coupled with the very different circumstances which surrounded me on the very site of these exploits, stimulated in me the reflection that the time for this particular class of opportunities was passing away in Burma. There may perhaps be room still for rough work in the frontier districts, but the sphere of the explorer and conqueror is rapidly contracting, and the sphere of the administrator is expanding. I need not say that I have no intention of underrating the work of administration. On the contrary, it is the goal to which all effort leads, without which all other work would lose much of its importance. All that I mean to point out is that it is work carried on under different conditions. It is work which is not rewarded by war medals, but is no less deserving of a high place in our estimation, for it is stimulated and maintained at a high level by the spirit of loyalty and self-denying devotion to duty which has made Indian administration what it is, and won for it a world-wide reputation.

What I have already said will no doubt have prepared you for the admission that in passing through the Province I have seen many signs of the prosperity, the prospect of which was held out to me on landing by the Municipal Committee of Rangoon. A country where in so short a time wars have ceased, and where plenty prevails,

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naturally presents a happy and smiling aspect. It might be rash to speak too confidently as the result of a hasty visit alone. But my observations are confirmed by the reports of responsible persons; and certainly all I have seen, whether from a general view of the country in a journey of, I suppose, more than 1,500 miles, or from the friendly demeanour of the people in the towns where we have halted, or the villages where we have rambled at will in the twilight, though the stockades told eloquently of more hostile intruders in other days,—all these things leave on the mind a sense of assured and permanent security.

But perhaps the best evidence of the altered state of the country is the improvement in the means of communication. Burma has always had the advantage of magnificent waterways, and I should be sorry to think that anything would be done that might have the effect of curtailing in the future the facilities of travel, whether for business or for pleasure, up and down these mighty rivers and other channels now used. But still a railway has certain undisputed advantages in regularity and speed, and in these days one of the first signs of a settled administration is the construction of a system of railways, and of the roads which connect with and feed the railways. I think the Government of India has no reason to be ashamed of the progress made in Burma in supplementing the jungle paths by which alone the traveller of former days who left the river could reach his destination. I believe that at the time of the annexation of Upper Burma 12 years ago it was possible to travel by rail 166 miles from Rangoon up the Valley of the Irrawaddy. Now we soon leave Toungoo far behind, and steam on till, at the 724th mile, the train draws up at distant Myitkyina. It is already a great system, and it is capable of great development, and I say so after travelling over pretty nearly the whole of the 900 miles of which it consists, and proceeding as far as it could for the present take me, in the direction of what I

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conceive must be at least two ultimate objects of its ambition, *i.e.*, connecting links with Assam on the one side, and China on the other. I must not be understood to mean that the realisation of those hopes is near at hand. On the contrary, though I have no doubt in my own mind that the Railways of Burma are destined some day to join hands with those of India, and to tap the adjacent Provinces of the Chinese Empire, and perhaps, I should add, to form a connection with the friendly Kingdom of Siam, still a good deal of this work lies outside the special sphere of the Government of India, and, so far as we are concerned for the present, there are in my judgment more urgent calls upon us from within the Province itself. I venture to say that the course which the Government of India has taken is eminently calculated to ensure that our energies are turned in the right direction. I am more than ever satisfied, since I came here, that we did right when we handed over the management of the Burma Railway to a strong Company, which can study, better than any Government Department, the necessities of commerce, and can command the support of European capitalists. If, as I believe is the case, this Port of Rangoon, which benefited by the first-fruits of railway enterprise, has doubled its trade and its population within the last 20 years, surely there is no reason why we should not look forward to a continued growth of prosperity and wealth as the varied products of your country are given access to the markets of the world. There is no failure in the demand for grain, timber, oil, coal and other minerals, all of which you possess, and all of which I hope you will be increasingly able to use and to export owing to the gradual extension of your railways to the sources of supply, as well as by the completion of the main lines of road which already are pushing their way outwards from the centres of population into the undeveloped parts of the country.

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I was particularly anxious to visit Burma last year for a reason closely connected with what I have been saying to-day. Last year Burma's place among the progressive provinces of the Empire was officially recognised by the creation of the Lieutenant-Governorship, and of a Legislative Council. I should like even yet to congratulate Burma on this fact, and my friend Sir F. Fryer on his appointment as the first Lieutenant-Governor of Burma. It is a position which his long acquaintance with the country eminently qualifies him to hold. I have no doubt that under his guidance the work of administration, on which I have laid stress, will proceed regularly and be carefully adapted to the growing wants of the Province. I readily admit, or rather I might say I should be prepared strongly to contend, that we must expect modifications in institutions and forms of Government corresponding to the development of the Province. But if it would be a mistake not to be liberal in meeting these requirements, it would also be a mistake to act hastily or to make changes prematurely. We all know what serious consequences follow when a young man outgrows his strength, and I think the same is true of a community. I have every confidence that her first Lieutenant-Governor will deal wisely with Burma at this critical stage in her history, and I venture to promise him the hearty co-operation of the Government of India in any well-considered plans for her benefit. For myself I was asked as I landed to promise a continued interest in Burma, and I was prepared even then to take up the challenge. I am more than ready to renew my promise now. Mingling with many recollections of scenes of interest and of beauty, and of kindly greetings which have been, and must ever continue to be the source of much personal gratification to me, I shall carry away with me a deep sense of the importance of this Province to the Empire and of the duty which the British Government owes to it and to its people.

DEPUTATION FROM THE RANGOON BAR.

[A Deputation representing the Rangoon Bar Library Association, 9th Dec. 1898. headed by Mr. Van Someren, waited on His Excellency the Viceroy at 11 A.M. on the 9th December and presented a Memorial praying for the immediate establishment in Rangoon of a High Court, or Chief Court for Burma. The Memorial, which was of some length, entered into the arguments in favour of this proposal in detail, and it was supplemented by a statement by Mr. Van Someren.

The Viceroy in replying spoke as follows:—]

I thought it would be more convenient to ask you to come here informally to discuss the subject of this Memorial, which I understand sets forth fully the case which you wish to represent, and, therefore, I have not thought it my duty to formulate any statement to you, for the very reason which you have just mentioned, *viz.*, that it would be impossible for me to do so. I shall in a very short time now demit my office; and though the question of the judicial arrangements for Burma is before the Government of India, it is impossible that it should come to a conclusion before I leave and before it passes into the hands of my successor. I should certainly hope that some conclusion would be come to before he visits you; but whether that is so or not, I hope that this case will be dealt with promptly when it is ripe for settlement.

I rather demur to the position which you, Sir, in your statement, have claimed for the Province. I do not think it can be maintained that whatever establishments or equipment may be possessed by the older Provinces should be given to Burma before it contributes anything to the Imperial revenues. I do not know whether that was actually intended. I think the words you used, Sir, were "before we give any support to other Provinces." I am not quite sure that Burma does support other Provinces, or that the other Provinces will admit that Burma does support them; and I am not, therefore, prepared to say that you have a clear case that money is taken out of

Deputation from the Rangoon Bar.

Burma which ought to be spent in the Province for the equipment which is to be found in the other Provinces, simply because the other Provinces have it. The fact, however, is that these legal arrangements are matters which must be considered with regard to the circumstances of the time and the funds available.

I do not quite follow the argument that we can afford to disregard the difference in the position of Upper Burma. The executive Government must keep in its own hands the determination as to whether Upper Burma is advanced sufficiently to be brought within the realm of the more settled arrangements which prevail in Lower Burma. I think that is a matter which deserves, and will receive, further consideration. I should myself be quite prepared to admit that the claim for a Chief Court in Burma is further advanced by the fact that the Province has become a Lieutenant-Governorship, and that, therefore, the time is more nearly approaching when a Chief Court ought to be established here; but the area of the Court, how far it should be restricted, and other questions connected with its working—all these matters have to be considered in detail and thoroughly threshed out. They are being threshed out, and I have no doubt a conclusion will be come to in reasonable time.

I am afraid I must also demur to another of your points. When I spoke yesterday of the staple crops of Burma, I did not include among them a luxuriant crop of litigation; and I am very doubtful whether the extensive facilities for appeal which encourage such a crop are an unmixed advantage. I know that this is a matter which excites very serious apprehension on the part of those best able to judge. I think you, Sir, said that it was the privilege of Britons to fight. As far as my experience goes the Native claims that privilege quite as much as, if indeed not more than, the Briton. I am a Scotchman, and I am acquainted with the nature of a "guid ganging plea"; but the native

Deputation from the Rangoon Bar.

of India certainly goes as far as the Scotchman ever did. I remember having pointed out to me at a place in Southern India that I visited a site on the edge of a large tank, of the value of a hundred rupees, which had been brought into the Law Courts, and regarding which it was well known from the beginning that the case was to be taken up to the Privy Council. A system which favours a series of appeals of that kind is undesirable, and I should very much like, if possible, that Burma should not enter on a career of that nature.

I do not know that I can say much more with regard to your prospects in the matter. I will submit your Memorial and the accompanying papers which you have given me to my colleagues on my return to Calcutta and explain to them what you have said to-day.

[His Excellency then dealt with the allegation to which Mr. Van Someren referred that the Bar was not consulted to a sufficient extent with regard to impending legislation, and explained that, though all members of the public were able to make representations on any matter at any time, it was not possible to consult them expressly with reference to legislation that might be contemplated until that legislation had taken shape in a Bill. Opinions were then invited, and the fullest opportunities were given for criticism and discussion, and every attention was paid to the expressions of opinion which reached the Government. This was the system, not only in Burma but with the Government of India and in all other Provinces.

After some conversation on this point and also on the standing of the officers by whom civil suits were decided in the Districts of Lower Burma, the deputation withdrew.]

ADDRESSES AT MOULMEIN.

10th Dec. 1898 [The Viceregal party arrived at Moulmein at 12-30 on Saturday, the 10th December. Their Excellencies were received by the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma and his staff, Mr. Birks, Commissioner, Mr. Burne, Deputy Commissioner, and the principal official and non-official gentlemen of Moulmein, Amherst and the adjoining districts. His Excellency on landing proceeded to a large *pandal*, in which over 300 ladies and gentlemen were seated. After the National Anthem had been sung by a number of school children, Mr. Burne read an address of welcome from the Municipal Committee. The address cordially welcomed their Excellencies to Moulmein, and stated that the present prosperity of the Tenasserim Division (one of the earliest of the British possessions in Burma) was a marked example of the advantages of British rule. In Moulmein was to be seen the first instalment of street lighting by gas in Burma; a scheme for providing a good water supply was then under the consideration of the Government of Burma, and it was intended to follow this up by a system of drainage. All this would make the town one of the most healthy as well as beautiful cities in Her Majesty's Empire. His Excellency's attention was called to the need of internal and external communication, and his support was asked for the project of connecting Moulmein with Rangoon by rail; another equally needed line was to Siam; and another, scarcely less needed, southwards towards the Malay States. The address concluded with the hope that the visit would afford as much pleasure to their Excellencies as it did to the inhabitants of Tenasserim.

An address of welcome from the Burmese inhabitants was next read in the vernacular by one of the leading Burmese residents, after which His Excellency rose and replied in the following terms:—]

Gentlemen, I thank you all for your loyal and cordial greeting—and I address you all—for while I have had the pleasure in many places of acknowledging the welcome given to Her Majesty's representative, I do not think that I have anywhere been met by a greater appearance of unanimity and heartiness. It is therefore to the whole community of Moulmein that I wish to express my gratitude. I ask you to believe that I speak in all sincerity, and a very few words will serve to explain why my feelings on this occasion are strongly moved. As you all know

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the time is now rapidly approaching when I must hand over to my successor the high office which was entrusted to me by Her Majesty, and which I have held during the last five years. During that period I have visited many cities—most of the great cities of the Indian Empire. Last of all I come to Moulmein. I have stored in my memory many kindly demonstrations, many friendly words of many men belonging to many races, and these are things I can never forget. I desire to draw no invidious comparisons, but coming as I now do to what under any circumstances must have been an event notable in my life—I mean the last halt in the last tour which I shall make as Viceroy of India—no one will be surprised if the special cordiality of your welcome touches a chord to which I feel bound to respond. It has for me a double significance; it tells me that you are glad to see us here amongst you, but it also means that I shall carry away from this culminating point in my Indian career to my distant home across the seas an abiding sense of the goodwill which I would fain hope some in India will continue to entertain for me—which I on my part shall always entertain for the people of this great Empire.

Gentlemen of the Municipal Committee, you have called my attention to various matters in which you are bestirring yourselves for the benefit of the city whose affairs it is your duty to manage. You cannot set before yourselves a better ideal than to make the healthiness of your city rank as high as the loveliness of its situation. I wish you all success in your endeavours. Water and drainage are in my judgment essentials, and must be secured even though the cost be heavy. I think you will do well to consult freely with the Local Government and to be guided by its advice.

You have also stated it as your opinion that your means of communication require improvement. If certain observations which I made the other day at Rangoon have

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reached you, I need scarcely tell you that I have great sympathy with aspirations of this kind. As I said then, I should myself give the first place at present to internal rather than external development in Burma. As to the railways you mention, I have no information about the proposal for a line running southwards to Tavoy and Mergui and the Malay States. I am told it would be very costly. The project of a railway into Siam, though it has often been mooted, has not yet taken shape, and from the nature of the case must depend greatly on things over which the Government of India has no control, especially on the views of our friends in Siam. The proposal to give you railway communication with Rangoon stands in a different position. We know more about it, and its prospects are more favourable. I am not in a position to give you any promise, or to speak for the Burma Railway Company, who must naturally take the initiative, but after studying the papers I entertain the hope that, if not immediately, then at no very distant date, this scheme may be seriously considered.

Gentlemen, I note with satisfaction what you say of the loyalty of this ancient possession of the British Crown and of the prosperity of Tenasserim under British rule, and I once more thank you for the welcome you have given to Lady Elgin and myself. The beautiful specimens of your Native manufacture in which your Addresses are enclosed will be charming mementos of our visit.

ADDRESS FROM THE TALUKDARS OF OUDH.

[At noon on Thursday, the 29th December, a large and influential 29th Dec. 1898. deputation of the Talukdars of Oudh, headed by the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Partab Narayan Singh of Ajudhya, K.C.I.E., waited on the Viceroy at Government House and presented His Excellency with a farewell address. The deputation was received in the Throne Room, the address being read by the Maharaja of Ajudhya.

The address expressed regret at His Excellency's departure, and referred to his Administration as a long contest against war, pestilence and famine. It expressed admiration for the vigour and judgment shown by Lord Elgin in organizing and conducting the operations on the North-West Frontier and the skill displayed in bringing the war to a successful issue. The plague, it said, was perhaps beyond all human power to contend with, but the efforts made to localize the evil had been so far successful as to inspire the hope of its final extirpation at no distant date; while the people of India would never forget the wise forethought and unwearied energy displayed by the Government of India under His Excellency's guidance in combatting the famine. It would be a pleasing reflection to His Excellency on the eve of his departure that an abundant harvest had restored the country, whose welfare during a trying time had been an object of His Excellency's deepest concern, to its wonted prosperity. The address concluded with a reference to the happy events connected with Lord Elgin's family during his Viceroyalty, and by wishing their Excellencies and family a long life of prosperity and happiness.

The Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Maharaja of Ajudhya and Gentlemen, Talukdars of Oudh, I am deeply sensible of the gratitude which I owe to the Talukdars of Oudh. You were among the first—I am not quite sure that you were not actually the first—to welcome me here in this room after my assumption of office when I arrived in India in 1894. A few weeks afterwards you extended to us what I cannot describe as otherwise than a splendid hospitality at Lucknow—a hospitality which we can never forget; and now you have come to bid me farewell, and have conveyed to me your sentiments in terms of which I cannot say less than that they are as ample and as generous as I could desire.

Address from the Talukdars of Oudh.

Gentlemen, I think there is no fact which has impressed itself upon my mind during these five years more than this—the great importance to the British Government in India of the support of the leading families of the various Provinces to whom the people naturally look as their leaders.

In the great events of these years, to which you have referred in your address, we have had many instances of that support. You have spoken with pride of the exploits of our soldiers in war, and I can never forget that many of these troops were troops which were sent by the Ruling Chiefs of India from the Native States, and the troops that were sent were only a part of the many offers of assistance which came in to the Government at that time.

Then, again, in dealing with famine it was only yesterday that I was reading a Despatch from the Secretary of State in which he expressed his lively satisfaction at the reports we have been able to send him of the manner in which the Administrations of the Native States had co-operated with the officers of the British Government in bringing relief to distress throughout their parts of the country, and I know that that support and co-operation was extended also to the Government by gentlemen like yourselves in British India. You, gentlemen, who know the people and are of the people, have it in your power to guide them aright, and to prevent impulses which may lead to evil; and I am quite sure that the Government of India will, in the future as in the past, be able to look for ready support from the Talukdars of Oudh.

Gentlemen, you have always managed, if I may use the expression, in addressing me, to give your words a turn which I might almost say expresses personal friendship. I remember very well that when you came here in 1894 you made a touching reference to my father. To-day you have not let pass without notice certain events which are not of public importance, but which are doubly interesting

Address from the Members of the Mysore Family.

to me and to my family. I wish to assure you that these are ties which must bind my family and the interests of my family to India, and which cannot be lessened by absence or by distance; and I have only to say in conclusion that I shall look with great interest to seeing in the future the continued prosperity and welfare of the Talukdars of Oudh.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MYSORE FAMILY.

On Thursday the 29th December, at 12-30 P.M., the members of the Mysore Family, about 25 in number, waited on the Viceroy at Government House and presented him with a farewell address. The address was read by the Hon'ble Sahibzada Bakhtyar Shah, C.I.E., who headed the deputation. The address remarked that His Excellency's reign had been crowded with stirring events. The Empire had been stricken with pestilence and famine, and visited by an appalling earthquake. On the boundaries of the Empire circumstances of the utmost gravity had demanded attention, and to crown all there had been many and grave difficulties connected with finance. There might be divergence of opinion as to the policy adopted to meet these enormous difficulties, but there could be none as to the earnest and devoted attention His Excellency gave to them and the masterly way in which they had been overcome. Nor was there any doubt or wavering feeling as to the high esteem and affection of the people of India for His Excellency: the Hindus would speak for themselves, but to the Mahomedans His Excellency had specially endeared himself by the warm interest he had shown in their welfare and progress, and the Mysore Family, in particular, were grateful to His Excellency for selecting Prince Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah for the Bengal Legislative Council and for bestowing on him the decoration of a C.I.E. The address concluded with an expression of grief at His Excellency's departure, and with the hope that their Excellencies would have a pleasant voyage and much happiness and prosperity at home and would sometimes think of distant India.

The Viceroy replied as follows:—]

Gentlemen, It has always been a great satisfaction to me at the various gatherings in Calcutta to meet the

Address from the Members of the Mysore Family.

members of the ancient Family of Mysore, and to receive from them the courtesy which I have always experienced. I am afraid that during the five years of my residence in India you, as a family, have suffered some of the losses which time brings. I refer especially to a recent loss which I believe has removed the last remaining member of one of your generations—an event which is a matter of concern to any family. I hope that you have always known that you could count upon my lively sympathy with you in sad events of this kind. I am glad, however, to meet here to-day so large a number of the family, and to find at your head my friend Prince Bakhtyar Shah, a man who has interested himself in public affairs, and has shown the utmost readiness to take part in every good work in this city.

Gentlemen, I am desired by Lady Elgin to ask you to take a message from her. She wishes me to express her acknowledgments to the ladies of your family who were kind enough to send her an intimation that they would wish to bid her good-bye, and invited her to pay them a visit in person. She desires me to ask you to assure them that it is a great regret to her that the very short time at her disposal, and the very numerous calls upon that time for the next few days, have made it impossible for her to enter upon new engagements; but she is doubly sensible of that kindness, and hopes that you will convey to them her thanks for the kind wish and intention.

Gentlemen, I do not think I can say more to any purpose at this meeting, except to thank you very sincerely for the kind way in which you have spoken of the events which have passed, and the share that I have taken in the work of the Empire during my tenure of office. You only speak the truth when you mention the deep interest which I have felt in the Mahomedans of India, and I hope you will believe that, in returning you my best thanks for the good wishes which you have expressed for us for the

Address from the Calcutta Corporation.

future, I thoroughly reciprocate them, and wish health and prosperity to the members of the Mysore Family.

ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

[On Thursday, the 29th December, at 3-30 P.M., a deputation of the 29th Dec. 1898. Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta waited on the Viceroy at Government House and presented a farewell address to him. The address was read by Mr. W. R. Bright, the Chairman of the Corporation. The address expressed regret that the Corporation were not able to congratulate His Excellency, as they had congratulated the Marquis of Lansdowne, that it had been his good fortune not to have his attention distracted by foreign complications. His Excellency, they said, had had to deal with circumstances of the utmost gravity beyond the North Western Frontier, while the Empire itself had been visited by famine, earthquake and pestilence : at the same time there had been many and grave anxieties and difficulties connected with finance to contend with. There could be no difference of opinion as to the earnest attention which His Excellency had brought to bear on the consideration of these subjects, and throughout he had had their cordial sympathy. They especially congratulated His Excellency on the progress which had been made during his tenure of office in the East Coast and Bengal Nagpur Railways, and mentioned some of the advantages of these important lines. The Commissioners knew that His Excellency had warmly interested himself in these and other railway projects and congratulated His Excellency upon the results achieved. They were glad to be able, in spite of the dangers and difficulties of His Excellency's period of office, to congratulate him that on the eve of his departure the finances had wonderfully recovered, and that he was not leaving to his successor an empty treasury. They wished His Excellency and Lady Elgin a pleasant voyage, and concluded with the hope that His Excellency would retain a friendly feeling for the people of the Empire over which he had ruled.

Lord Elgin, in replying to the address, spoke as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Municipality of Calcutta, I think I can safely say that there is at least one reason for our meeting here this afternoon which is common to you and to me. We desire on this the last opportunity which

Address from the Calcutta Corporation.

will be afforded to us to express our mutual good-will. It is not necessary for this purpose to endeavour laboriously to discover points on which we agree any more than points on which we differ. Public life would, in my judgment, become intolerable if men could not sometimes agree to differ, could not recognise that there is room for difference of opinion, and, so recognizing, welcome occasions on which a friendly meeting was possible without imperilling our right to independence of judgment. Such an occasion surely is the one of to-day. We meet never in all human probability to meet again, and we meet, as you have pointed out, after a period of great anxiety. You have mentioned difficulties with which it has been my duty to deal. Here in this city I have shared in many of the momentous deliberations and decisions which affairs of this importance entail, and it is gratifying to know that throughout I have enjoyed your cordial sympathy. What I should wish to say on my side is that I never have and never shall withhold my sympathy from municipal work. It would be strange indeed were I to do so, for I left it to come here and hope to return to it on my arrival in my own country. And I know that you too have had your times of anxiety during the last five years, more especially when the advent of plague seemed inevitable, and when it actually forced an entrance in spite of all precautions. Most sincerely I congratulate you on the fact that you are once more free from that great calamity. And I hope and believe I can go a step further. If you are justified, as I think you are justified, in congratulating me on the brightening prospects of the country, am I not also justified in feeling assured that if the foe should again make his appearance—and we should be foolhardy to overlook the possibility—you are better prepared to meet him, with greater confidence, with the spirit of co-operation, which is our best weapon?

I entirely agree with you in your estimate of the probable value to this city of the railways to the South now

Address from the Calcutta Corporation.

approaching completion. I am not sure that I always appreciate, as much as some do, the importance of competing lines. Competition may perhaps lower rates, but low rates do not always mean efficient railway service. But railways which open up new country can scarcely fail to increase trade, and I hope this will be your experience. Nor is this all. Old friends are sometimes the best friends, and I have watched with interest the increase in the coal trade which you owe chiefly to the East Indian Railway. It appears to me that the export trade in coal has possibilities which may go far to solve some of your difficulties in the future, and, by increasing your prosperity, to help you in dealing effectually with the great problems of sanitary reform which undoubtedly await you.

You will perhaps allow me one parting word. Of all the dangers affecting municipal life—in the East and the West alike—none I think is more pressing than the disinclination of men of position and influence to share in municipal work. It is due to causes and objections which I cannot discuss now, but which I think are not all of them insuperable. And if so, they are well worth discussion, and discussion conducted with good humour, and an eye to business. What we want is that a city like this should have the most efficient Government attainable, because on efficient Government depends the health and comfort, I might almost say the life, of the inhabitants. I would fain see all classes in this community vie with each other, by loyal co-operation in municipal work, to maintain the credit of Calcutta as an Imperial and at the same time and in the best sense of the term a self-governing city.

Gentlemen, I thank you on Lady Elgin's behalf and my own for the kind wishes you have expressed regarding our voyage home and our future life, and in bidding you good-bye I assure you that we shall never forget the days we have spent here amongst you.

THE LADY DUFFERIN VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

30th Dec. 1898. [On Friday afternoon, the 30th December, the Countess of Elgin opened the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital in Amherst Street, Calcutta, in the presence of a large assemblage. Additional interest was lent to the ceremony by the fact that this was the last public function of the kind with which Her Excellency would be associated prior to her departure from India. The proceedings were held in a large shamiana which was pitched in the compound of the hospital. Their Excellencies were received by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who presented to them the members of the Bengal Branch Committee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. The Lieutenant-Governor addressed the meeting and gave a short history of the hospital of which Lady Elgin had laid the foundation stone a year ago, and stated that, besides one and a half lakhs for which the old hospital was sold, about two and a half lakhs had been given to the building fund and about two lakhs to the endowment fund. Sir John Woodburn paid a high tribute to Lady Elgin's interest in the fund during the last five years. He then asked her Excellency to declare the hospital open, which she did by unlocking at the same time the main entrance door. Their Excellencies then inspected the hospital, after which they returned to the shamiana and the Viceroy addressed the assembly as follows :—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The programme has been so arranged that, in the performance of my duty as responding for Her Excellency to the invitation of the Provincial Committee to open this hospital, I am able at the same time to refer to the impression which the hospital itself has made upon us. Looking back to the proceedings of January last it almost seems to me like a transformation scene, and I think that no one who has passed through the wards, as we have done, could entertain any other but one opinion of the hospital which has just been opened. I think all will agree that in this building Calcutta has acquired a notable addition to its public institutions—a hospital which is admirably adapted for the purpose for which it is intended, a hospital which we may all hope, by its convenience and excellence, will prove popu-

The Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital.

lar among the classes which it is intended to benefit. His Honour has referred to some difficulties which the Bengal Committee have had to surmount in attaining this result, and I think it is perhaps only justice that I should say that we all know that much of that success is due to the exertions of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Gayer, who has devoted himself so energetically to this work. I think I have said before, but I am desired by the Lady President to repeat, that she has always felt how much in this movement is due to those in the Provincial Committees who are willing to wield the labouring oar in the work of this Fund. It would take too long to go through the list of Lady Presidents—and when I mention Lady Presidents I take it that it is implied that the services of their husbands are included—of Honorary Secretaries, and of Members of Committees, who in the various Provinces have devoted themselves to this great work. All that I need say to-day is that in this respect Bengal has been eminently fortunate, and at no time more so than at the present moment.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Lieutenant-Governor has not in any way exceeded the truth in what he has said of the manner in which the concerns of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital have occupied Her Excellency's attention during her sojourn in India. As he has said, it was one of the subjects which first claimed her attention. The necessity of a change was then pressed upon her. The desire to see that change effected was only increased by the difficulties which were encountered, and it is a great satisfaction to her that, before she leaves India, she has been able to see the hospital so far completed as it is to-day. She desires me to say that she will carry away with her the charming memento which the Committee have presented to her, and which binds her literally to the remembrance of this hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen, of the kind words which His

The Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital.

Honour has spoken of the work in which Her Excellency has been engaged in connection with this Association and the share she has taken in it, I must speak very briefly. If I had a perfectly free hand I am not quite sure that I should not be disposed to add my testimony, because, although generally I have in the matters of the Dufferin Fund been in the position of an onlooker, still, as you are all aware, "onlookers see most of the game." But I am not free in this matter, because to-day I speak only as the Lady President's delegate, and I am not allowed by her to say more than this, that while she is extremely grateful for the kind words which have been spoken of her work and of the estimate which has been placed upon it, still she feels bound to disclaim credit which she considers due to others—due to the Central Committee, with whom it has been a pleasure to her to be associated, and especially to its Honorary Secretary, who has never spared himself in their service; due to the Provincial and Branch Committees and their officers, of whose work I have already spoken, but with reference to which I should like to add a mention of the many Civil Surgeons throughout the country who have taken an interest in the work of the Dufferin Association; due, most of all, to the Lady Doctors, on whose attention and devotion to their duties the success of this work must ultimately chiefly depend.

Lady Elgin cannot deny that this work has been for her a labour of love, and if she can carry away with her when she leaves India an assurance that the work has continued to prosper during the time she has held office in the Association, her efforts will be amply rewarded.

[A vote of thanks was then proposed to Their Excellencies by Nawab Syed Ameer Hossain Bahadur, C.I.E., and seconded by Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee, C.S.I.]

ADDRESS FROM THE ZEMINDARI PUNCHAYET.

[A numerous and influential deputation from the Zemindari Punchayet waited on the Viceroy at Government House at 11-30 A.M. on Saturday, the 31st December, and presented His Excellency with a farewell address. Raja Sasisekharesvara Raya headed the deputation and read the address. The address referred to the difficulties with which His Excellency had had to contend in the administration of the country; calamities of the gravest description and almost unparalleled in the history of nations had followed one another in close proximity. While the country was being devastated with famine and pestilence, the frontier war taxed seriously His Excellency's mind and the resources of an already overburdened Empire, and any other administrator of less calibre would have succumbed under the circumstances, but to their admiration, they brought to light traits in His Excellency which were truly noble. While offering continued encouragement in all possible ways to the Local Governments to ward off the effects of the famine and to eradicate from India the direst of plagues, His Excellency found time to develop schemes for bettering the material condition of the population. On the one hand, His Excellency's endeavours in passing measures for improving the status of the cultivators had gained for him their everlasting gratitude; and, on the other, his solicitude for the maintenance of the position of the ancient families of zemindars had secured to His Excellency the confidence of that section of the community. His Excellency's efforts in the matter of minimising the number of appeals in civil suits and the introduction of the Arbitration Bill in the Supreme Council had greatly strengthened and given further impetus to one of the most important objects of the Association and its continued efforts in this direction for the last ten years. The sympathy which His Excellency had thus evinced for the well-being of the zemindar community had deeply affected them. While respectful to the traditions and customs peculiar to the Oriental nature, the Viceroy's marked neutrality in these matters had greatly endeared his name throughout the length and breadth of Hindustan among the conservative portion of the community, and His Excellency's noble desire to do good to the people placed under his care had been but partially fulfilled on account of the numerous difficulties and adverse circumstances that impeded administration, and the shortness of the period allotted for the work he so nobly undertook.]

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Address from the Zemindari Punchayet.

Gentlemen,—I cannot address the Members of the Zemindari Punchayet this morning without first adverting to the great loss which you have sustained in the death of your President, the Maharaja of Darbhanga. I have seen a good deal of the Maharaja during the five years which I have spent in India, and I could wish that I had seen more, and I have often admired the manner in which, in spite of impaired health, he has devoted himself to his public duties. Nothing but illness has prevented him from his attendance at the Legislative Council of the Governor General, and also I think I may say at the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor, and he has occupied an honoured position in both of these Councils during the five years of my acquaintance. He has also on more than one occasion been wont to consult me on matters which have interested him, and I have been struck by the way in which he, a Hindu of the Hindus, has entered into the feelings of his fellow-subjects of all races; European and Native. A man of great natural capacity, with a great mastery of the English language, he has exercised an influence second to none in this Province, on which his generosity, catholic and unstinted, has showered many a benefit. I desire to express my deep sympathy with you in the premature death of a man who could so ill be spared.

My modesty does not permit me to put in any claim for all the merit which you have been good enough to attribute to me in the address which has just been read. At the same time you must not suppose that I am ungrateful for the appreciative manner in which you have spoken of my endeavour to serve the people of this country and to understand their interests. It had been my hope that during the period of my term of office it might have been possible to more fully consider and formulate measures dealing with the position of the various classes that are interested in the cultivation of land, and to adjust on an

Address from the Zemindari Panchayet.

equitable basis their respective rights; but if we have not advanced so far in that direction as I could have hoped, I think you will understand that that has been due not in any way to any lack of desire for the accomplishment of the task, but rather on account of the overwhelming calls on the time and energy of every officer of Government which was the necessary consequence of the calamities to which you have referred. All the same we have not been idle in this matter. I think you will agree with me that it is necessary that any legislation of this character should be preceded by very careful investigation, and we have done a good deal of work of that kind. I venture to hope that the time is not now so far distant when some definite steps may be taken, and I can entertain little doubt that the measures, whatever form they may assume, will take into account the two sides of the problem as you have stated them, *i.e.*, the status of the cultivator on the one hand, and the position of the ancient families on the other. In addressing your neighbours from Oudh the other day, I expressed my sense of the importance in the circumstances of India of maintaining by all legitimate means the credit of those families to whom the people look for their natural leaders. I think I need scarcely point out to the Zemindari Panchayet that a position of this kind entails duties as well as privileges, and that foremost among those duties is that of promoting peace and order both by example and by benevolent treatment of those dependent on you.

I am delighted to hear your denunciation of the evils of litigation. The Arbitration Bill is under discussion, and I am not quite sure how far it is adapted for your purposes. But after all a man can do a good deal to avoid litigation if he tries. Personally I should exhaust every expedient before I allowed an opponent to drag me into the law courts. If this is not sufficient, I am sure you will have the sympathy of all officers of Government, as well as

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

of myself, in any endeavour to restrict the amount of litigation and devise a more expeditious and less expensive method of settling disputes.

You do me no more than justice in saying that I desire to respect the traditions and customs of your country. Such respect is, I think, the foundation on which British rule in India must rest, as well as the natural impulse of any man who feels that the natives of India are indeed his fellow-subjects, and share with him in the common heritage of the great Empire of which we are proud, and which it is our ambition to conserve. I have now, gentlemen, to thank you for the very kind wishes which you have expressed both for myself and Lady Elgin for our voyage home and future life, and to wish you in return every prosperity in this country.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY
SOCIETY.

31st Dec, 1898. [A deputation of the Mahomedan Literary Society waited on the Viceroy at Government House at 12 noon on Saturday, the 31st December, and presented an address, which was read by Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahman. The address expressed regret at His Excellency's approaching departure, and tendered on behalf of the Mahomedan community a sincere and respectful farewell. In dealing with plague, famine and war His Excellency had brought to bear upon them a foresight, courage and determination which had elicited the admiration and sympathy not only of the English people but also of all classes and communities in India. The Mahomedans of India felt highly gratified that under His Excellency's Viceroyalty the friendship and alliance of the British Government with the Ruler of Afghanistan had remained unimpaired and undiminished, and that the amplest measures had been adopted for the security of the Frontier. The steady advance of the prosperity of the country, and the marked improvement in the general condition of all classes of the people in the face of great anxieties and difficulties, would certainly entitle His Excellency's administration to the lasting gratitude of all concerned. In the matter of education the progress generally made by Maho-

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

medans had been marked and satisfactory. With regard to the Plague Regulations His Excellency had shown sympathy with the religious feelings and customs and habits of all classes of the people and the delicate considerations for the requirements of the purdah.

The Mahomedans of India were deeply grateful for the arrangements made in regard to pilgrimage, and it was by these just and wise considerations for the time-honoured institutions of the people that they had been led to repose implicit trust and confidence in the good faith and sympathetic care of the British Government. It would be a matter of extreme gratification to His Excellency to recollect that it was during his Vicerealty that the celebrations in honour of the completion by Her Majesty of the 60th year of her reign had taken place. The Mahomedan community was not behind-hand in their demonstrations of loyalty and devotion to the Throne, and the Queen-Empress hardly possessed a set of more devoutly attached and loyal subjects than the Mahomedans of India.

The Society wished to convey through the Viceroy their most respectful thanks to Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin for the impetus which had been given under her patronage to the working of the Dufferin Fund and more especially by her laying the foundation stone of the Victoria Zenana Hospital in Calcutta. In conclusion the Society, in bidding His Excellency and Lady Elgin a regretful farewell, wished them a happy and prosperous voyage home, and prayed that health and strength might be accorded to Their Excellencies to continue those kindly regards for the good of the people of India, which had always been manifested during the period of Lord Elgin's Vicerealty.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta,—I should be ungrateful indeed did I not acknowledge the very cordial terms in which you have addressed me on this occasion. It might conceivably have been otherwise. On two at least of the topics on which you have touched the course of events at one time threatened to bring the Government of India into conflict with Mahomedan sentiment. In the warlike operations on the North-West Frontier the fight was with your co-religionists, and, without attempting to define accurately what is obscure, I think I shall not be contradicted if I say that a strong religious impulse certainly played its

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

part in stirring up the disturbance But the loyal Mahomedans of India stood firm—Mahomedans both in the Army and among the people; and the reason they did so I take it was this, that they recognised that the tribes were being misled, and that designing men were trading upon their ignorance. No one spoke out more emphatically on this point than the Amir of Afghanistan when he repudiated all sympathy with the originators of the disturbance. I have always believed that the loyal Mahomedans could be counted upon as surely as any other of Her Majesty's subjects to secure the safety and integrity of the Empire.

Again we have been compelled very much against our will to impose restrictions which we know must render it difficult, if not impossible, for many of our Mahomedan fellow-subjects to undertake one of the most solemn of their religious duties, that is, the pilgrimage to Mecca. It was a matter which we have considered more than once with great care and anxiety, and the orders we have issued were adopted only because there was no alternative. Here, again, we have to acknowledge the support we have received not only from our ally the Amir, and from Chiefs and Princes in India, but from the Mahomedan community generally. I think it has been recognised that the Government was in full sympathy with the religious aspirations of the people, and that if restrictions had to be imposed they would be limited to what was essential for the preservation of the health of the community or for the observance of regulations established by international agreement. In other words, to use your own expression, you "have learned to repose implicit trust and confidence in the good faith and sympathetic care of the British Government."

Gentlemen, these are great and important matters, and there are many other important matters touched

Address from the Mahomedan Literary Society.

upon in your address on which there is no time for me to enter to-day; but I turn for a moment to the more personal and social side of our relations, and I desire to assure you that I look back with pleasure to the occasions on which you have been good enough to invite me to the entertainments of your Society in the Town Hall. These entertainments serve a useful purpose, both in the varied character of the amusing and instructive sights which are prepared for us, and in the assembling together of those who otherwise might not find it easy to meet in friendly intercourse. I shall not forget these occasions, and I hope you will be able to continue them in the years to come.

And now I am afraid I must speak the inevitable word, and must bid you farewell, thanking you for Lady Elgin and myself for all your kind words and good wishes, and wishing your Society in return a long and prosperous career.

ADDRESS FROM THE CENTRAL NATIONAL
MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION.

31st Dec. 1898. [A deputation of the members of the Central National Mahomedan Association and its affiliated branches waited on the Viceroy at Government House on Saturday, the 31st December, at 12-30 P.M., and presented His Excellency with a farewell address. After expressing regret at the Viceroy's approaching departure the address went on to remark that it was a mere truism to describe his administration as an eventful one, and to say that his lot had been cast in troublous times pregnant with the most dreadful and destructive calamities. His Excellency had, however, steered the vessel of the State safely and successfully through this combination of trying circumstances—an achievement which would reflect the highest credit upon his consummate statesmanship. They could not, it said, refrain from briefly alluding to some of the acts of His Excellency's Administration in which he had been conspicuously successful. The deplorable tribal complications beyond the North-West Frontier had been happily brought to a satisfactory termination by His Excellency's tact and firmness, his policy, while fully vindicating the invincible might of the British arms, having been distinguished also for its conciliatory attitude towards the tribesmen. In regard to plague, the citizens of Calcutta in particular would ever gratefully remember the solicitude shown by His Excellency and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in respecting the social usages and religious prejudices of the native community in the enforcement of plague regulations. Had it not been for this nothing could have saved Calcutta from the disastrous effects of a widespread panic and scare. Similarly His Excellency was not a minute behind-hand in wiring his sympathy with the ill-fated sufferers by the late cyclone at Chittagong. The address in conclusion expressed the hope that the Viceroy and Lady Elgin would continue to entertain a lively interest in the cause of Mahomedans.

The Viceroy replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen of the Central Mahomedan Association,— I thank you for the kind and friendly words which you have just spoken. They are of a piece with many of the greetings which I have received from many Mahomedans in many parts of India. I think the general turn of our con-

Address from the Central National Mahomedan Association.

versation on such occasions has been that I have heard much of the aspirations of Mahomedans to have opportunities for loyal service, and representations as to the manner in which that result might be achieved. Now on the military side there is no difficulty. In war the Mahomedan soldier has always been distinguished for courage, for powers of endurance, and for general soldier-like qualities which make any soldier of the Government proud to stand by his side; and in the events of the last few years to which you have alluded the Mahomedan soldier has had his opportunity, and has taken full advantage of it. But I quite admit that on the civil side there are some difficulties, and these difficulties have been frankly stated to me. They consist very much in a certain backwardness in the cultivation amongst your community of those elements of knowledge which in these days are essential to success in public life, and I think I may say that it has been freely admitted that that backwardness and those disabilities are due not to any disqualifications imposed upon you by the Government of the country, but by certain obstacles which arise out of the customs and history of your people. From that point of view they are obstacles which it is the interest and wish of anybody connected with the Government of the country to see removed; but at the same time, in order that I may be as frank in speaking to you as you have been in speaking to me, I may say that I have always felt it to be my duty to point out to you that the first means of avoiding these obstacles was that you should help yourselves. There is no royal road, and I should say there is no Government road, to success in these matters in these days. Even the sons of kings must go through that preparation in early life which instils into them gentlemanly feelings and aptitude for business, and even kings themselves must, as much as, indeed I might even say much more than, any of their subjects, maintain their position by good and honest work. Now I am glad

Address from the Central National Mahomedan Association.

to believe that Mahomedans generally in India fully recognise these facts and are willing to bestir themselves to meet them. During the past year you have lost, much to my regret, and I am sure to the regret of all of you, the pioneer of this movement, the late Sir Syed Ahmed. But I am persuaded that his spirit still remains, not only in the College at Aligarh which he founded and which will always remain as a memorial to him, but also in the spirit which has led to the establishment of educational institutions in many other parts of the country. Now I do not wish to be misunderstood. I do not wish to advocate education merely as a matter of attaining as many university degrees as other competitors in the race. I do not mean to depreciate university degrees; they are good in themselves, and they are still better if they denote a desire to excel in the higher branches of study and learning, and, so far as I am competent to judge, I imagine that Mahomedanism has outlets for the student and scholar which might, with advantage to the world, be followed up; but what I am especially alluding to at this moment is the education which should turn out your sons as good, honest, trustworthy citizens, capable of taking their place not only in the public service but in all walks of life as men of probity and intelligence. I hope and believe that in making these remarks and in advocating these principles I shall have the support of the Central Mahomedan Association. I have been very much led to make them because I hold in my hand a telegram which I received only this morning from the Mahomedan Educational Conference in the City of Lahore, expressing in very warm terms, which I greatly appreciate, the gratitude of that Conference for the sympathy which, in a humble way, I have been able to express to the Aligarh College, as representing the cause of Mahomedan education in India.

I hope, Gentlemen, that you will also be able to recog-

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nise in what I have said, and in anything I have done during my stay in India, that I have been desirous of treating with all respect your social usages and religious customs, and I rejoice to know that you, in common with all the inhabitants of this Province, are convinced that you will always find that respect from the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that times of difficulty may be before you in the future, but if they do come, I am sure that they will be more easily met if you will act in co-operation with the Government, in the spirit which you have advocated in your address.

Gentlemen, I have to thank you all for the constant kindness which you and the Mahomedans of Calcutta and India have always shown us during our stay here, and also for the good wishes which you have expressed for me and my family, and to wish you in return all prosperity.

DINNER AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[The approaching retirement of the Earl of Elgin was made the occasion of a public dinner given to His Excellency by the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce at the Royal Exchange. About two hundred and twenty members and their guests sat down to dinner, and the entertainment was in every way successful. The rooms and corridors of the Exchange were brilliantly illuminated, while the great hall, in which the dinner took place, was elaborately decorated with blue and gold, the Eton colours, in graceful compliment to the guest of the evening. Prominent among those present were His Excellency Sir William Lockhart, General Sir George Luck, General Wodehouse, Sir John Woodburn and Sir James Westland. Shortly after 8 o'clock the strains of the National Anthem announced the arrival of Lord Elgin. The Hon'ble Mr. Turner (President of the Chamber and Chairman of the dinner) received His Excellency and conducted him to the dining hall.

After dinner the Chairman proposed the toast of "The Queen," which was duly honoured.

The Chairman, again rising, said :—Your Honour, Mr. Vice-President, and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in proposing the next

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toast, namely, that of our guest of the evening, His Excellency the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. It seems but fitting that as it is customary for the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to present an address of welcome to the Viceroy-designate on his arrival in India, so we, the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, should take the opportunity of saying a few words of farewell and wishing a hearty Godspeed to the retiring Viceroy, especially to one who has had to experience more than the usual share of anxiety and trouble during the period of his rule, and has passed through the ordeal with so much honour to himself and to the high office that he has held. Hence it is only right and proper that we should unite this evening in doing honour to our distinguished guest, Lord Elgin.

It is just five years ago since I had the honour of forming one of a deputation from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to present an address of welcome to Lord Elgin, then on his way to Calcutta to assume the office which he is now on the point of laying down. In that address special stress was laid upon the necessity for the extension of railways in India generally, more especially for the construction of small feeder lines and short extensions, and if for nothing else Lord Elgin's Viceroyalty will be memorable for the immense personal interest he has taken in the all-important question of the development of the railway system of India. I shall not inflict on you minute details, but would mention that during His Excellency's tenure of office about 3,500 miles of new line will have been constructed, making a total of 22,000 miles open by the end of March, and a further 3,000 miles have been sanctioned. This is a record of which His Excellency may well be proud. Nor can we over-estimate the immense service rendered by Lord Elgin to the commerce of India by the stimulus thus given to the construction of new lines in various parts of this country. Reference was also made in the Bombay address to the need of liberal terms of concession from the Government of India, without which, apart from the question of fixity of exchange, there would be no inducement for home capitalists to enter into schemes of public utility in India. In the matter of concessions we must gratefully recognise a step in the right direction taken by the Government of India during Lord Elgin's term of office. The Notification of 17th April, 1896, contains inducements for the construction, by the agency of private companies, of branch feeder lines. But the concessions offered have not been sufficient. For proof that this is so, and further that there is ample capital waiting to be invested in Indian railways, I cannot do better than quote a remark made before the Currency Committee by Lord Rothschild, who said:—"I personally have no doubt that under a generous

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system the capital required for the development of India could be found in the London market." This, coming from such a high authority as Lord Rothschild, deserves the fullest consideration at the hands of Government, and we all trust that the truth of the remark may be fully recognised, and that it may bear good fruit in due season.

Gentlemen, the history of India during the past five years, when it comes to be written, will record a series of events of intense interest and of the highest importance. We have had a visit from India's old enemy, famine, which was successfully grappled with, thanks to the energy and self-devotion of those in charge of the afflicted districts. We have had a visit from a new enemy, the plague, which I regret to say still lingers in the country, and remains so far unvanquished, and in Bengal and Assam we have suffered from a disastrous earthquake. On the frontier we have had a time of trouble and unrest. We have had a number of important expeditions commencing with the relief of Chitral and the storming of the Malakand Pass, and closing with the Tirah Campaign, all of which have served to illustrate once again the indomitable pluck, endurance, and gallantry amid the greatest difficulties and dangers of the officers and men of Her Majesty's Forces, both British and Native. I would here remind you, gentlemen, that we are honoured this evening by the presence of that distinguished soldier, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief who, as Sir William Lockhart, was the means of bringing the Tirah Campaign to such a satisfactory conclusion. While it could be wished that the necessity for these expeditions had not arisen, they afforded an opportunity to the Chiefs of India to demonstrate their loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, of which they were not slow to take advantage, and such a real demonstration of loyalty must have been a matter of sincere gratification to Lord Elgin. The action of the leading territorial Nobles in placing their troops at the disposal of the Government of India, and in offering their personal services in the field, is one of the links in the chain that helps to bind the British Empire together—a link that, it is hoped, will never be weakened, but will acquire increased strength in the coming years. If the events to which I have referred have proved of absorbing interest to the ordinary spectator, what must they have been to those who are responsible for the Government of the country and, above all, to the Viceroy himself. We cannot realise the tremendous difficulties, the almost overwhelming anxieties which Lord Elgin has been compelled to face during his tenure of office. Surely it is not too much to say that His Excellency

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has proved equal to the occasion, and has, by his coolness and fortitude in storm and stress, won our admiration and respect.

Gentlemen, Lord Elgin came to us as an untried administrator; he leaves us an experienced ruler. He leaves us having added fresh lustre to an already illustrious name. He leaves us—we hope and expect—to acquire further honour and distinction in the service of his Queen and country. In asking you to fill your glasses and drink to Lord Elgin's health, I feel sure I shall be anticipating the wishes of this gathering if I associate with the toast the name of Her Excellency Lady Elgin, who has so ably continued the great and beneficent work inaugurated by Her Excellency's predecessor, Lady Dufferin, on behalf of the women of India, and has also shown her deep sympathy and personal interest in those charitable institutions for both Europeans and Natives which abound in this great city of Calcutta.

The toast was drunk with musical honours, cheers being given for His Excellency and Lady Elgin.

His Excellency the Viceroy, who on rising was very warmly received, then spoke as follows:—]

I thank you with all my heart for your very great kindness to me this evening. You have removed a suspicion which sometimes crossed my mind, the suspicion that some of you really thought that my regard for Calcutta was not all that it might be. I have nothing to withdraw from what I have said elsewhere of the affection I, for many reasons, personally feel for Simla, or of the advantages on public grounds of a move to that place. Nor of course do I deny to others the right to differ from me, so long as the arguments they use are fair arguments. There is one line of argument which I consider unfair, and that is to dilate on the practice of former days and to impute to the men of to-day a less strict sense of duty. Improvements in the means of communication, which have brought India nearer to England, have brought Simla nearer to Calcutta for all purposes of business, and it is as reasonable to overlook that fact as it would be to ignore the existence of the Suez Canal and to insist on calculations based on a voyage round the Cape in a sailing ship. I apologise for detaining you on this subject, but facts which are patent

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to you who know India are not equally appreciated elsewhere, and I think it worth while to say distinctly that there is no foundation for the allegation that public business suffers owing to the move of the Government from Calcutta. I hesitate to argue further the charge of dereliction of duty. I cannot conceive any officer of the Government of India, be he Viceroy or any one else, who would, for a moment, allow considerations of mere pleasure or comfort to determine his place of residence. I decline to accept for my Colleagues or myself any lower standard in such matters than that which regulated the conduct of our predecessors.

But, Gentlemen, I am encouraged by your reception of me this evening to assure you that my regard for Calcutta is no empty thing. I shall ever be proud of having been a member of a Government whose orders have issued under the time-honoured phrase from "Fort William in Bengal." I hold as strongly as any of you that it is here in Calcutta that the important legislative work of the Government of India should be done. It is permissible to remind you that it has not been found convenient at all times and in all countries to hold the sittings of the Legislative Assembly in a large and populous city. We have the historic decision of the authors of the Constitution of the United States, and more recently the removal of the French Assemblies from Paris to Versailles. I myself was born in the midst of scenes of tumult of which the immediate result was the burning of the Houses of Parliament in Montreal and the ultimate result the establishment of the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa. I do not mention these things to suggest that the Legislative Council of the Governor General should sit at Barrackpore or anywhere else. I have witnessed periods of some excitement in Calcutta—and periods of excitement are not conducive to the satisfactory discharge of Legislative duties—but I should be ungrateful if in this assembly I

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did not remember the valuable assistance and moderating influence of my two friends who during the last five years have represented the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Sir Patrick Playfair and Mr. Allan Arthur. For close on a hundred years the proposals for the amendment of the laws of the people of India have been discussed and approved in the place where we now meet for that purpose, and I hope that when your successors meet a hundred years hence to speed the parting Viceroy of the day, he will declare then as emphatically as I do now for the retention by Calcutta of its position and precedence in this respect among the cities of the Empire of India.

Gentlemen, there are difficulties of a rather formidable character which confront me in addressing you this evening. You, Sir, have been good enough to speak of the circumstances of the last five years as exceptional. I am scarcely the person to make comparisons in such matters, but I cannot deny that our hands have been pretty full. I am inclined to think that if I had been able in the latter part of 1893 to take a peep into the future, I might well have hesitated, even more than I did hesitate, to accept a certain proposition that was then made to me, and that no one would have ventured to term my hesitation other than prudent and even patriotic. But if during these years we have had our full share of great events, and if we have surmounted more than one crisis in our affairs that does not make my task at this moment the easier. Great events can scarcely be described in a few words, and I have a rooted objection to long speeches after dinner, especially to my own. Under these circumstances one of two things usually happens. The speaker is told either that he has treated everything in a sketchy and imperfect manner, or that he has neglected subjects of equal or greater importance than those on which he has discoursed. Moreover, great events and times of crisis too often mean controversies which survive though they

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may lie dormant. My distinguished friend, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the other day in a speech, the too flattering kindness of which I gratefully acknowledge, challenged me to soar into the empyrean. The idea of the lark carolling in the blue vault of heaven is an attractive one, but I am not quite sure what happens to the lark, when the clouds are charged with electricity. Possibly my Hon'ble friend knows; and as I have always regarded him as a model of prudence, I am strongly disposed to follow his example. But, speaking seriously, I can only touch upon matters which are controversial with great reserve. It is true that in a day or two I shall myself arrive at a region of greater freedom and less responsibility, but I should think very poorly of myself if I allowed that fact to alter my estimate of what is expedient in the public service. I conceive it to be a positive duty not to say a word if I can avoid it that will render more difficult the task of my Colleagues whom I leave behind or my successor who is rapidly approaching Calcutta, and I am sure that you, Gentlemen, will feel with me that no other course would be consistent with a spirit of loyalty to the Government of India.

Let us pass from the general to the particular. I suppose there is no branch of the work of the Government of India on which there would be more to say than that in which gentlemen round this table are specially interested: I mean the work of the Department of Finance and Commerce. Finance at the best of times enters into everything which we do: in times of calamity it has to receive our first care, and the consideration of its problems goes far to determine our action. War, famine, plague, earthquake, internal administration, foreign policy all raise questions of ways and means. In all these forms questions of finance have claimed our attention during the last five years; and I venture to say that never have its difficulties been more courageously

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and skilfully met than by my Hon'ble friend who, to the great advantage of the Government of India and of myself in particular, has throughout held the post of our adviser.

Now I tremble to think how many apples of discord I could throw upon this festive board if I embarked upon a discussion of our financial troubles. A history which began with Import Duties and ended with Currency Reform must be long and must be controversial, and I have promised to avoid both evils as much as possible. On the main issues in the great question of the day my lips of course are sealed. It is not for me, or for the Government of India, to interpose while the investigations of the Committee whose assistance they invited are proceeding. But it may be permissible for me to offer one or two remarks as to the position of the Government of India. The determination of what is and is not practicable in the higher regions of finance to remove the evils of which we in India complain depends on two separate and distinct factors, *i.e.*, on the one hand the conditions prevailing in India, on the other the conditions prevailing in London,—and I say London as representing the money market of the world. That this distinction is a real one must, I think, be admitted when we find that even so great an expert as Lord Rothschild insists again and again in his evidence before the Committee that he does not know India, and therefore cannot pretend to say whether the course which he recommends is practicable in India. Now the constitution of the Government of India is in some respects well fitted to cope with a difficulty of this character. It provides, as you know, for consultation between the Secretary of State and his advisers on the one hand, and the Viceroy and his advisers on the other, and important decisions are, as a rule, the outcome of that consultation. But in this case the ordinary procedure could not be followed. That was due to a variety of circumstances: partly I think to the

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impatience—I quite admit the not unnatural impatience—of gentlemen, some of whom I imagine are present in this room, who were keenly alive to the difficulties of trade. It was necessary for us to state the case for India in our Despatches of September 16th, 1897, and March 3rd, 1898, on our own responsibility and on the information available to us. I do not mean by this to limit our responsibility or to imply that I am dissatisfied with the results these two Despatches have already achieved. On the contrary, I maintain that our proposals are based on sound principles, and that the support given to those principles has increased in a very remarkable manner since the summer of 1897. I claim that our endeavour to initiate a discussion on right lines has been distinctly successful. But I also claim an opportunity for completing the process of consultation. It has been thought advisable to submit the whole case to an independent and impartial tribunal at what under other circumstances might have been a preliminary stage. I concurred, and still concur, in the adoption of this course; and it is only when, by this means, we have secured full information as regards English opinion, and the best advice available in the financial capital of the world, that I could make myself responsible for final proposals. This duty will not now be mine, but I cannot suppose that the Government of India, however constituted, will take any other view of its duty or responsibility.

Indian financiers must always be prepared for the unexpected, as the events of the last five years have abundantly proved. It is therefore obviously desirable in Government interest that any cause which tends to accentuate these difficulties should be removed, and fluctuation of exchange is clearly one of those causes. But it is altogether unfair and untrue to say, as some have said, that the Government of India have thought of nothing else. In our Despatch of September 1897, which, as

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I have already indicated, must be read as preliminary to the definite proposals of March last, we discussed at some length the general situation. I do not ask you to endorse our arguments, but whether we are right or wrong I should have thought even the most hostile critic, if he took the trouble to read our despatch, would be forced to admit that we acted as we supposed in the interest of trade. It has also been alleged that Government has done nothing to assist trade, but, on the contrary, keeps in its own hands funds which might be used to overcome difficulties. I can say distinctly that in the management of its balances the Government has certainly never taken any steps to create in the market a condition of stringency, and does not hold the view that it has anything to gain by making such a condition; and that it has given earnest of this opinion by twice, during the last two years, obtaining the aid of the Legislature in making the Currency Reserve available for the purpose of relieving existing stringency. Further than this it would be unprofitable for me to discuss so technical a question this evening. I believe it to be one where there are practical difficulties which it has so far been impossible to remove.

In my humble judgment a stable exchange is at least as much to be desired in the interest of trade as in the interest of Government. Government may be put to serious inconvenience in finding the extra number of rupees necessitated by an adverse exchange. It is true that within certain limits Government is master of its own expenditure, and that economies, troublesome and even possibly uneconomical in the long run, but still, up to a certain point, means of avoiding present expenditure, can be enforced; but it must be remembered that if economies are pushed too far Government itself will come to a standstill and the objects for which all Governments exist will not be attained. Trade on the other hand cannot exist without

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capital, and capital will only come on its own terms. Instances perhaps might be adduced of countries where, although the value of money was not assured, there was yet no lack of capital. I take it in this matter, as in most other things, we can get what we want if we are ready to pay for it, and men will take speculative risks if they see their way to a big enough profit. But to my mind for an undeveloped country to attract capital in this manner can only be compared to the conduct of the spendthrift who raises money on his expectations. I do not think India can afford to pay so high a price, or that there is any reason why it should be demanded of her. India has most of the advantages which are calculated to inspire the capitalist with confidence. It has labour cheap and abundant, resources awaiting development and every year becoming more accessible. It has above all, the protection of a great Empire pledged to the security of life and property at home and abroad. Why should not English capital feel attracted by these opportunities and as safe here as in other parts of the Empire? I am firmly persuaded that with a stable exchange and the confidence which will accompany it the time would soon come, to the material advantage of India, which requires cheap capital, and of England, where there are superabundant funds waiting for profitable employment.

As I have said, I do not consider myself at liberty to discuss the manner in which this end can be attained. But I may without indiscretion draw attention to a fact which I think is of good omen, and that is the great steadiness of exchange during the present year. In the four years preceding the present year exchange has varied to the extent of 11 or 12 per cent. In the current year its variations have been limited to 3 per cent.; and for a good many months now we have seen the unaccustomed phenomenon of exchange quotations hardly moving from

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day to day, and almost or quite reaching the goal of sixteen pence. We have been accustomed to hear, from certain sections of the community, whose views I would wish to treat with all respect, though speaking frankly as I am sure you all would wish me to do—we have heard from them grave apprehensions of the results to Indian trade that would follow from the raising of exchange to this point. So far, Gentlemen, I am happy to say that those fatal results do not appear to have ensued. I do not mean to say that during the period of transition there have not been times when trade has been seriously hampered ; but at the present time the productive powers of this country are showing a marvellous capacity for recovery after the adverse seasons that affected them ; and the figures of our export trade show that the rise and steadiness of exchange has not placed an embargo upon the sale of those products to our customers in other parts of the world. Indeed for my own part, when I see that three quarters of the whole foreign trade of India is with countries using a gold standard, I find it difficult to believe that, so far as our external trade is concerned, we can reap anything but a large balance of advantage from throwing in our lot with them, rather than with the silver countries with which we exchange the remaining quarter of our trade.

There is one feature in Indian Finance which I think must strike any one who is in any degree responsible for it, and that is the inexpediency, I might almost say the impossibility, of making any material increase to the burdens laid upon the people. Certainly it has come home to me with great force during my term of office. It was no slight shock to one who had been, and still is, a firm believer in Free Trade, to find that the very first large question which awaited him was the imposition of import duties. It was a necessity which I deplored, and of which the best that can be said is that there was no

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practicable alternative at the time, and that the very gloomy predictions of the effect on Indian trade have not all been realised. Now, again, in view of certain suggested remedies for our troubles, the same consideration rises up before me, and I have no hesitation in declaring, and I believe I shall have the unanimous support of responsible men in India, that we cannot hope to escape by the gate which leads to increased taxation. In saying this I do not subscribe to all that has been alleged of the poverty of India, and the poverty of its inhabitants. I confess that I habitually distrust generalisations, and, after all, poverty and wealth are relative terms. To turn the earnings of a coolie into shillings and pence and present them before the astonished gaze of a British artisan is to encourage a Pharisaic spirit in the latter, but it really proves nothing. To institute a just comparison we must know all about their respective habits, clothing, food, national customs, climate, and the many other things that contribute to a man's welfare and happiness. I do not believe that the great mass of the people think themselves impoverished. If their income is small, it suffices for their simple wants; they cannot be plundered as in former times, and they know well now that in bad seasons assistance will be brought to them. I wish with all my heart that we could do more. I cannot suppose that any one who considers the matter seriously can fail to recognise the great claims that our fellow-subjects in India—I refer especially to the great agricultural population—have on our sympathy and regard. I can never forget what I have heard and seen of their cheerfulness in a lot which has many hardships and few pleasures, of their fortitude under adversity, of their ready response to kindness, of their reasonableness and trustfulness when sympathetically led. I am not speaking at random; for to my mind the great Famine Camps and works of our year of trial carried through without coercion,

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without so far as I know any addition to the ordinary police of the districts, presented a sight that few countries could have shown. It justifies us in the hope that even in the more delicate operations connected with Plague we may successfully invite the co-operation of the people if we can once convince them that we are working for their benefit. All these things the Government of India must ever bear in mind while working steadily, though of necessity slowly, towards the end of all good government, a greater freedom from distress, a higher scale of comfort for all classes under its charge.

Sir, there is one part of work of the Government which leads more directly than any other to an increase both in the prosperity of the people and in the revenue of the country—I mean the construction of protective and productive works. They are commonly divided under two great heads—Railways and Irrigation ; but that does not imply any preference in treatment. We spend more upon railways than upon irrigation, because more can with advantage be spent. But I deny that we starve the irrigation branch or discourage irrigation schemes. The progress made on the side of irrigation is systematic and steady, and that is the proper way to carry on a business of this kind. For it is a mistake to suppose that irrigation can ever become a universal remedy and cause failure of crops to be unknown throughout the land. We cannot take more water out of our sources of supply than they contain, and we cannot usefully apply it to the land except where the conditions are favourable. I have just come back from Burma, a country where there is abundance of water, but across which as you know there runs a dry zone. I halted at a place where the year's rainfall was reported to be under 10 inches. I naturally enquired, as I stood on the banks of the mighty Irrawaddy, into the prospects of irrigation ; but it was pointed out to me that water could not be made to run up hills as well as down,

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and the surface of the country alongside the river being undulating and cut up by great ravines, irrigation works on an extended scale were practically out of the question. Again, elsewhere there is the danger of the country becoming waterlogged to the detriment of its fertility and of the health of its inhabitants. Where, however, conditions are favourable, works are in progress or are being prepared to take their turn. For example, in Burma, the Mandalay Canal will be complete next year and will be followed by the Shwebo Canal. In the Punjab the great Chenab Canal is approaching completion, the Jhelum Canal is about to be commenced, and the scheme for Sind-Sagar is in preparation. Large irrigation schemes mean large colonisation schemes, and for this and other administrative reasons it would be unwise to push on all these works at the same time. Otherwise there is every inducement to do so, for they are all likely to prove exceedingly profitable. I maintain that there is no justification for accusing the Government of India of want of attention to this important subject, and it is fair to add that it is not overlooked in Native States. For instance, when I visited Jeypore, I was told that no fewer than 138 irrigation works, large and small, were completed or in progress in that State.

Turning now to the question of railways, I have first to congratulate my friend the Lieutenant-Governor on the flight which in this case he did not decline. He dealt in an attractive manner with several matters of interest. But for me there are dangers ahead if I embark on an examination of particular schemes, and much as I should like to offer you my opinion for what it is worth on some questions which concern you closely, I am confirmed in my resolution to resist the temptation. On the general question I have seen considerable changes of opinion during my term of office. I have myself been both commended and condemned as a railway enthusiast. I have

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been praised for an ambition to surpass all records : I have been blamed for an excess of zeal in adhering to a programme. I plead guilty to neither count of the indictment. I have said before and I repeat that so far as I am responsible in arranging for an extension of railway construction, I acted in full accord with two Secretaries of State in two Governments, and of course with my two Hon'ble Colleagues, Sir Charles Pritchard and Sir Arthur Trevor, who have had charge of the Public Works Department. I hold that our programme was a reasonable one in the circumstances of the time when it was framed, and I see nothing even yet to regret in it. We have not been able to pay for it in the way in which we intended, but no one will venture to say that the causes which prevented this could have been foreseen, or that the work done is not a valuable investment for the future. So again, as regards modifications to meet the altered circumstances. There was no hesitation on our part in ordering reductions, but it must be remembered that here we could not deal with the whole programme. It was obviously impossible to reduce the expenditure of such Companies as raised their own capital further than the Companies themselves were willing to reduce, but I can safely say that so soon as it became necessary every item was carefully considered and wherever possible expenditure was restricted.

No, Gentlemen, I am not prepared to accept the name of railway enthusiast. I am a believer in railways especially in India, and I will give some of my reasons in a moment ; but I consider that the greatest improvement achieved during my term of office has been the institution of the system under which schemes are approved and sanctioned with the express object of avoiding hasty and rash decisions, and yet of giving a definite reply to all applications within a reasonable time. The Railway Conference, as

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it has been called, enables the Government of India once every year to take stock of its position, to compare the merits and drawbacks of the schemes, numbered not by units or tens, but, I may almost say, by hundreds, which are placed before it, and to make a selection among them with due regard to financial possibilities and to the needs of various parts of the country. In no other way can we do justice to the more pressing claims so long as we have to work within prescribed limits ; and so long as Government incurs responsibilities I quite agree that limits must be prescribed, whether extended as they were three years ago, or restricted as I am now told is necessary. It is sometimes said that we ought to depend more on private enterprise. I hope the time will come when that may be practicable, but I am afraid we must be content to wait until capital comes out to us in the manner of which I have spoken. It is said, and you, Sir, have endorsed the complaint, that we do not offer sufficient inducements. I should like to know what that means except that Government must take upon itself a larger share of the risk. We are exceedingly anxious to encourage private enterprise, and we have always had in the summaries of the results of our conferences a heading for railways "to be constructed without assistance from Government," but I am afraid the number of the entries is not encouraging. As things stand we do, by the terms we offer, take what we consider an ample share of the risk, and I do not see how we can be asked to offer terms which would mean that we were raising money at distinctly higher rates than those at which we could ourselves borrow. Up to the rate at which it can borrow, a State may, if it so pleases, directly or indirectly, guarantee those who construct a public work like a railway against loss. But beyond that point the question ceases to be one of possible loss, and becomes one of probable profit. The division of profits and the division of risk then become

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correlative terms. There is very little enterprise in the man who is content with the sweet simplicity of a Government annuity, but there are any number of grades of enterprise in the sharing of risks up to that most enterprising but often most far-sighted individual who makes his railway "without assistance from Government" and justly claims the profits which accrue therefrom. I see no reason why Government should not be abundantly liberal when it deals with *bond fide* enterprise of this character subject to one condition. It must not be open to the promoter to go back upon his bargain. Cases have occurred of projects started as purely private enterprises where subsequently Government has been subjected to pressure and compelled to give a guarantee. It ought to be clearly understood from the beginning that no such alteration of terms can be entertained.

I am a believer in the extension of railways in India, in the first place because for a long time to come there will be no difficulty in selecting schemes that will pay. One of the last pressed upon me offered a trifle of 12 to 15 per cent. I do not say they are all like that, but a much lower figure would justify the investment. And in the second place the direct return on the capital expended in the railway is by no means the whole of the benefit which accrues to Government. I have spoken of the difficulty of increasing taxation. But we have one great progressive head of revenue, *i.e.*, land revenue. Land revenue as you know does not increase automatically or capriciously. The revision takes place at fixed periods and the increase is determined after an examination of the whole circumstances of the district, which for care and precision and for consideration of the interests of the cultivator is unrivalled, and is to my mind one of the most remarkable parts of the Indian administrative system. It does not require much argument to show that if a cultivator can sell his produce at rates of 10, 15, 20 seers the

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rupee where formerly they stood at 30, 35, 40, the share that falls to Government can be legitimately increased, not only without undue burden to the cultivator, but on the contrary leaving him a considerable additional profit. Therefore it seems to me that the direct return from the traffic on a railway is often the smallest part of the benefit derived from its construction. Government benefits by this important branch of its revenue becoming steadily progressive without increasing the incidence of taxation. The cultivator benefits by the increased price of his produce, and the country as a whole benefits by the possession of larger stores on which it can indent in time of emergency. I said I would not draw comparisons between railway and irrigation works, and I do not do so when I claim as one of the facts proved beyond the shadow of doubt in 1896-97, that India could rely on her stocks of grain in a manner never before practicable, and in a manner which contributed above everything else to the triumph over famine; and all this India owed to her railways.

One word more as to my own position in this matter of railways. Whether the programme I have supported was or was not justified, I think I can fairly claim that the resources of the country have not been expended on ambitious projects. There are many ambitious projects both in this part of the country and elsewhere, some of which may some day prove attractive; of some of which I altogether doubt the expediency. In my time only one great through railway has been authorised, and I regret that it is not yet so near completion as I had once hoped—I mean the lines which complete the system of the East Coast Railway and bring the Bengal and Nagpur Railway into Calcutta. I venture to hope that when they are finished great and lasting advantages will accrue to this city. But in other respects our work has consisted for the most part of supplementing the great systems

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which already exist, and I believe that for a considerable time to come there is plenty of work of this kind to be done. It is not for me to prescribe the policy of the future, but at any rate I leave behind me no embarrassing obligations which need divert to what I may call the luxuries of railway enterprise, the money and energy which may be used for widening the foundation on which is built up the success which our Indian railways have already achieved.

Gentlemen, I have already made large demands upon your patience, and yet if I went on to dilate on the various events of the last five years which have affected the peace and tranquillity of the country internally and externally I might easily detain you an equally long time. With social conditions such as prevail in India we must always be on the look out for disturbances of the peace in times of strong religious or political excitement, and in times of distress or suffering. We have had seasons of trouble, and consequently we have had our experience of periods of anxiety. It is the business of the Government as custodians of internal peace to be ever ready to avert disorder by timely precautions, by friendly and conciliatory counsels, by remedial measures, while at the same time prepared if need be to vindicate authority by a just and impartial but stern and unflinching administration of the law. I am not sure if it is always recognised how much each individual can do to assist Government in this matter. If there is one thing on which the evidence is unanimous it is the widespread gratitude which the Famine Charitable Fund evoked. I am inclined to trace to it some at least of the better feeling which looking back to 1894 I seem to discover in 1898. I hope I shall not be misunderstood if I remind my countrymen in India that even if we think our fellow-subjects here may entertain prejudices which are unfounded, or aspirations which are premature, it is possible to avoid the irritating word, the expression of contempt, which, often I believe

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wholly unintentionally, serves as the match which fires the train.

Elsewhere than on the North-Western Frontier—I admit that is a very large exception—we have not had much to disturb peaceful relations outside the borders of British India, though we have on several occasions been called upon to send troops to Africa where they have fully maintained the credit of the Indian Army. Of the troubles on the Punjab frontier I cannot within the limits I have prescribed for myself speak at any length. I have endeavoured more than once to describe my position in general terms. I have seen no reason to depart from it, and I need scarcely weary you by repeating it. There are special points on which in justice to others as well as to myself I should be glad to say something, but I consider it a positive duty to abstain. It is impossible to treat of the causes of these outbreaks, of the history of what has occurred, or of the prospects for the future, without touching upon matters where there is, or has been, great difference of opinion and strong feeling. To one who was dealing with subjects such as these the warning was addressed *incedis per ignes suppositos cineri doloso*. I have no wish to rekindle the hidden fires. Time the great healer has already I hope done something to soften asperities, but an incautious word might easily renew controversies of which probably the most that can be said is that they are dormant. Never in my judgment would it be more unpardonable than now to speak that incautious word. My successor is now in India on his journey to this place, where he will soon be installed in office. He is a man, as you all know, not only of great natural ability, but of indefatigable energy and industry, who in a comparatively short time has won for himself as politician, as traveller, and as author, a place of which any man would be proud. He comes, as he has himself told us, to devote himself to the service of India from a

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deep interest in the work and in the people he is to govern. All these things are of happy augury, and I for one shall look forward with keen expectation to the realisation of the best hopes from Lord Curzon's career in India. But probably no one knows so well the magnitude of the task he has undertaken as his predecessor. In many aspects it might well seem overwhelming, in none is it so full of constant anxiety as in our relations with the tribes on our borders. I often think that we are hypercritical in our examination of the circumstances and motives of these tribes. The fact is that they are wayward and wild, ignorant and excitable, and any cause—I might almost say no cause at all—is sufficient to impel them to action which, however desperate and suicidal, may nevertheless stir up a conflagration as effectively as any fiery cross and involve the Government of India in the most serious political difficulties. I do not myself believe that we can by any means available to us altogether prevent the occurrence of outbreaks, sudden, unforeseen, almost unaccountable. All that can be done is to make such arrangements as will minimise the dangers, and knowing full well the constant anxieties which thus fall upon the Viceroy, I have throughout been desirous that nothing should be said or done to prevent his using the means which after deliberation he considers will best serve his purpose. With him is the responsibility, with him will rightly remain the determining voice in the choice of men and measures, and I venture to bespeak for him the confidence and loyalty of all.

Gentlemen, it is I suppose impossible on the eve of a departure such as this not to listen to the echoes of the days of one's sojourn in the country. I fancy I hear the oft-told tale of a subservience I never professed, founded on a phrase I never used. I fancy I see pictured before me Secretaries who beguile, Generals who dominate, perhaps even the figure of a Finance Member who

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controls. I remember as one of my early regrets that I did not soon enough begin to count the occasions on which I was informed that resignation was my obvious duty. But these, believe me, are shadows, fleeting and transitory, at most misconceptions which I hope never disturbed my good humour. In their place come words of appreciative kindness uttered in many languages, never more welcome than those which you, Sir, have uttered this evening, and which this company has endorsed in a manner which neither Lady Elgin nor I can ever forget. In stronger relief stands out the record deeply engraven on my memory of work which has claimed and obtained the support, loyally and ungrudgingly given, of men of every race and class in this great Empire. And through everything, above everything, rises the all-pervading sense of the personality, if I may use the expression, of the multitudes whose welfare has been entrusted to me, but is now to be committed to another, and of the great task in which it has been my privilege to share. How I have acquitted myself therein I cannot tell, but the wish of my heart I know. It so happened that the first place, outside Calcutta, which I visited as Viceroy was the historic city of Lucknow. There lies buried one of the noblest of Anglo-Indian heroes, Henry Lawrence, and standing in the quiet cemetery amidst the ruins of the Residency, telling us more eloquently than words of the peace which succeeds strife, of the rest which is the best reward of arduous and loyal service, I read the well-known epitaph of the man "who tried to do his duty." Often and often in the days since has that simple tombstone and its lesson recurred to me in the hour of doubt and trial and misrepresentation, and has reminded me of the spirit in which work has been done in India and for India, and of the path which those who desire to serve her must strive to follow cheerfully, unhesitatingly to the end.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF BEHAR.

3rd Jan. 1899.

[At 12 noon, on Tuesday, the 3rd January, a numerous deputation representing the people of Behar and headed by Maharaja Harballabh Narayan Singh, C.I.E., of Sonbarsa, waited on the Viceroy at Government House and presented him with a farewell address. The address was read by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Raveneshwar Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., of Gidhour. Beginning with an expression of regret at His Excellency's departure, the address remarked that Lord Elgin's administration had been an unparalleled period of sore and grievous calamities, and though there might be disagreement as to the manner in which His Excellency had discharged the many grave responsibilities of his post, yet it must be admitted that he had ever had nearest at heart the care and enlightenment of the teeming millions of India. It was only right to record His Excellency's anxious and able efforts in alleviating the dire privations of the people caused by famine, pestilence and other visitations of Providence, which gave evidence of His Excellency's sterling and sympathetic regard and interest for the people of India, a noble trait in his character which would ever keep warm in the hearts of the people his name as a kind and humane ruler. The fanatical outbreaks on the Frontier marked a crisis when His Excellency displayed the highest statesmanship, and it was a happy coincidence and a gratifying circumstance that, while His Excellency's father had materially assisted in quelling the Sepoy Revolt in 1857 by despatching troops while on his way to China, he himself had rendered an equally important service to the Empire by handing over the Frontier to his successor in a peaceful and contented state. The address concluded by expressing a hope that His Excellency would continue his sympathetic interest in the people of India.]

His Excellency the Viceroy replied in the following terms:—]

Gentlemen,—I am doubly indebted to you for coming so far from the Province of Behar to shake hands with me for the last time. I must freely admit that I have not seen so much of your Province as I could have wished, and as I have no doubt it would have been profitable for me to do, but we have a saying that "You can't put into a pint pot a quart measure", and the time at the disposal of the Viceroy may be likened to a pint pot, and the number of places he could with advantage visit would

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certainly fill more than a quart measure. It is true that now-a-days we can travel faster than our predecessors, but then there are a good many more places that we are called upon to visit, and the result is that we have in the end less time at our disposal, and the visits that we do pay are often very hurried visits. All the same I retain a very lively recollection of the visit that I did pay to the Province of Behar, and the interesting sights I saw there, and the very kind reception that I met with, and I am now able to carry away with me the remembrance of to-day and of the kindly manner in which you, on behalf of the Province of Behar, have come to bid me farewell. I am also greatly indebted to you for the appreciative manner in which you have spoken of my work during my term of office, and the way in which I have dealt with the calamities that have fallen upon India during that time. I agree with you that, as regards affairs on the Frontier, we may look back with pride to the exploits of our soldiers. It must be a still greater satisfaction to you to know that peace has been completely restored in those regions, and I need not tell you how gratifying it is to me to feel that I am able to hand over charge to my successor under these circumstances. I should be ungrateful if I did not also respond by a passing allusion to the way in which you have referred—and it has often been referred to during my stay in India—to the incident of my father's life which we of his family have always treasured as one of the most striking instances of his noble character.

Gentlemen, I cannot forget that you in the Province of Behar have also had your share of the calamities of these years. The famine at one time threatened to be very serious in Behar, but it was met bravely both by the officials of the Government charged with the administration, and also by those amongst you who were responsible for the lives and welfare of the many people of the

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Province; and I cannot help mentioning in this connection the man of such vast generosity whom you have lost from amongst you—the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who showed a noble example in the way in which he managed his Raj during the time of the famine.

And now, Gentlemen, I have only to respond to your kind wishes of farewell. You have expressed every sentiment of friendship for Lady Elgin and myself, and have sent us off with good wishes. I hope you will believe that we on our part shall always have very near our hearts the remembrance of the people of India and the people of Behar, and that we shall look with interest on, and hope to hear of the continued prosperity of you all.

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